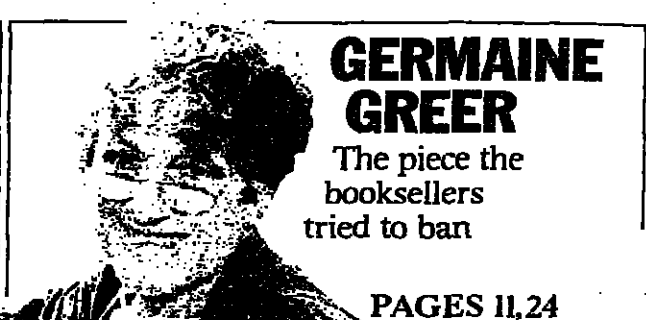


PAGE 48



GERMAINE GREER

The piece the booksellers tried to ban

PAGES 11, 24



CAN WE WIN AT TENNIS TOO?

PAGE 50



LADIES WHO LUNCH

PAGES 18, 19

Fears of EMU collapse hit markets

France seeks time to think again on euro

By CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

FRANCE created new doubts over monetary union yesterday after openly clashing with Germany about rules governing how a single European currency should be run.

The Socialist Government's refusal to accept the agreed "stability pact" imposing budgetary disciplines on countries that adopt the euro created jitters on stock markets across the continent and raised fresh concerns for the European summit in Amsterdam on Monday.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, insisted that France was "absolutely determined" to go ahead with the single currency in 1999 and said he was simply seeking time for reflection. But his Government's refusal to endorse the stability pact until after it had put its programme to Parliament on Friday week led to suspicions that the entire single currency was on the verge of collapse.

All the main stock markets, apart from London, suffered sharp falls, and the mark rose against the franc, dollar and pound, regaining some of the ground it had lost amid fears that Europe was heading for a "soft" single currency.

M. Strauss-Kahn's stance also raised the stakes for the summit in Amsterdam, where a new treaty on Europe's future is due to be approved. In return for a compromise on the stability pact, France is expected to seek strong language in the treaty's employment chapter and curbs on the primacy of the future European central bank. Germany,

There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag?

—Peter Riddell, page 12

Kohl plan 15
Jittery markets 27

the driving force behind the stability pact last December, is resisting pressure for a clause promising EU funds to stimulate employment.

Dutch officials preparing to host the summit were appalled at the uncertainty created by France. One diplomat said: "We always thought the British would be the problem. We never dreamed the French would bring the misery."

He spoke after M. Strauss-Kahn had told finance ministers: "We are not seeking to renegotiate the stability pact, but we cannot approve it today." The Government wanted time to review the pact and to find ways of "accompanying it" with undertakings to co-ordinate economic policies to promote growth. "In no country does the central bank operate in a political vacuum," he said.

The suspension of the accord concluded by President Chirac, Helmut Kohl, John Major and the other 12 leaders last December reopens the painful quarrel between German demands for a monetary union based on continuous

fiscal austerity and other states' desire for more political leeway. Most other ministers voiced understanding for the need of Lionel Jospin's government to review the commitments it inherited, but they were adamant that the stability pact could not be renegotiated.

"What has been agreed upon and discussed for two years can no longer be put up for negotiation," Theo Waigel of Germany said. He added that there would be no change in Germany's policy of requiring strict adherence to the Maastricht rules — but his authority to preach on the subject has been undermined by his attempt to top up Bonn's budget by revaluing Germany's gold reserves.

Diplomats suggested last night, however, that French demands would be appeased by adding more about the co-ordination of economic policies to the stability pact. That, along with the new employment chapter in the Union Treaty, would enable France to say that it had fulfilled its promise to create an "economic government" to accompany the monetary administration of the single currency by the European Central Bank.

Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, will set out for Paris and other capitals tomorrow in an attempt to produce a package before the summit, but diplomats were not optimistic that he could succeed, given France's promised silence until June 19.



Peter Lilley and wife Gail greet would-be supporters at his party yesterday

Tory hopefuls woo backers with canapés and crisps

By ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Tory leadership contenders launched their final pitch for support last night over champagne and canapés.

William Hague, who has pledged to reduce the average age of the Tory activist from 64 to 32, chose the Carlton Club in St James's, a bastion of old Toryism. The average age of the membership is closer to 70 than 30.

Women MPs were not amused as they are admitted only as associate members. Margaret Thatcher, whose support Mr Hague tried and failed to secure, is still the only exception. "They can do anything but vote in the management of the club's affairs," said one bewildered official who was wearing a hearing aid.

Mr Hague, flanked by his fiancée Fiona Jenkins, entertained guests, who included a clutch of new MPs, under glittering chandeliers behind oak panelled closed doors of the coffee room.

But the real excitement was outside. A group of Streatham Young Conservatives, dressed in traditional Mexican bandol costume, picked the entrance. They wielded posters proclaiming: "Partido el Presidente".

Peter Lilley, by contrast, opened up the gardens of the St Stephen's Club in Queen Anne's Gate, close to the Home Office, which was once the fiefdom of his arch rival, Michael Howard, who was entertaining around the corner.

Mr Lilley, stung by reports that his was to be a downmarket cheese-and-wine affair, ordered in supplies of Cockburn and Campbell champagne at £22 a bottle.

His wife, Gail, was unimpressed by it all. "I am a



"It's my fifth cocktail party and now I can't even remember the candidates' names"

bohemian artist. My career may even flourish. I have already had an expression of interest in commissions for red boxes even though I am a still-life artist, which you should not confuse for the current state of the Tory Party," she said.

One of the most upmarket affairs was at No 8 Lord North Street, once a favourite den of intrigue of Winston Churchill, which is the Michael Howard campaign headquarters.

First to arrive was Lord Hanson, the Tory-supporting businessman, who paid for Mr Howard's party and drew up in his maroon Rolls-Royce with his wife Geraldine.

Inside some 50 MPs and peers drank of Laurent-Perrier champagne which was being chilled in ice in wastepaper bins which is where his rivals expect his leadership bid to end. Food was at a premium. Plain Pringle crisps and peanuts. It was clear the house was only on loan from

Continued on page 2, col 5
The candidates, page 13
Robert Skidelsky, page 22

Shake-up plan for welfare state

The Social Security Secretary and her deputy have drawn up a ten-year programme for reform of the welfare state that includes proposals to replace cash benefits with other forms of help. Harriet Harman and Frank Field have devised a programme to curb the £90 billion social security bill. Page 2

Minister seeks to end gazumping

Nigel Griffiths, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, is to attempt to stop gazumping across Britain by introducing the Scottish system of house buying.

This would stop potential buyers being left with legal and surveyors' bills when a higher offer is accepted by a house seller. Page 27

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The Times on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV & RADIO 50, 51
WEATHER 26
CROSSWORDS 26, 52

Rantzen 'sacrifices weak to her ego'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ESTHER RANTZEN was accused yesterday of sacrificing the interests of weak and vulnerable people to the greater glory of her ego.

Paul Watson, producer of such fly-on-the-wall documentaries as *The Home, The Factory and The Dinner Party*, said Ms Rantzen exploited the politics of pity in her television programmes about people trying to overcome disability, hardship or tragedy. The programmes were saccharine, maudlin and full of ersatz emotion, but neglected the real needs of the people involved.

Ms Rantzen retaliated with an attack on Mr Watson's documentary technique, saying that it could lure the subjects of his programmes into a false sense of security so that they allowed things to appear on camera which, with hindsight, they would have preferred to keep private.

She also defended her own approach, saying that it had done much to raise public awareness of the work of voluntary organisations and helped them to raise funds.

The two producers clashed at a conference about the media and the voluntary sector at which each warned charities to beware of the

other's activities. Mr Watson, a former BBC producer who now works for Granada Television, said Ms Rantzen's programmes could prove harmful. "I think that what Esther is doing takes the rough edges off the damaging programmes arguing about what they have seen."

"At the end of her programmes you have an image of Esther in your mind, not of the person she was interviewing. I do not like the cult of the personality where people parade their miseries and anxieties to the glory of people like Esther who are on negative-bucks." He added that voluntary organisations needed to "wise up" to prevent broadcasters and other media people exploiting them.

Mr Watson also criticised programmes such as BBC Television's *Children's Hospital*, which shows real events and

community in the same state as they came on, and the viewer merely turns his face to the wall. I go into things in greater depth and challenge the everyday views that people have on life. I hope that people go to bed after watching my programmes arguing about what they have seen."

Geoffrey Briggs, 33, a bachelor, is recovering from emergency surgery after being flown to an Italian hospital. Arrangements are being made to bring him home.

Mr Briggs's post in Tirana was Second Secretary, Economic. He had been acting chargé d'affaires while the ambassador, Andrew Tesoriero, took annual leave.

Foreign Office staff said the incident was "purely domestic" and made it clear diplomats were allowed relationships with locals, unless there was a security risk.

British diplomat stabbed

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

BRITAIN'S chargé d'affaires in Tirana was stabbed in the stomach yesterday after what is thought to have been a quarrel with his Albanian girlfriend.

Geoffrey Briggs, 33, a bachelor, is recovering from emergency surgery after being flown to an Italian hospital. Arrangements are being made to bring him home.

Mr Briggs's post in Tirana was Second Secretary, Economic. He had been acting chargé d'affaires while the ambassador, Andrew Tesoriero, took annual leave.

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Redgrave unearths lost Tennessee Williams play

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN UNKNOWN play by Tennessee Williams is to be given its world premiere by the Royal National Theatre after being discovered by the actress Vanessa Redgrave. *Not About Nightingales*, a harrowing story set in an American prison, had been hidden among documents owned by the American playwright's estate.

Trevor Nunn, the National Theatre's artistic director, said: "I'm

astonished that it's never been done or read or performed. It's completely unknown — among the first two or three things he wrote. It has literally never seen the light of day."

Its neglect has nothing to do with the quality of writing. Mr Nunn, who will direct the play next year, believes its homosexual content, though not a major part of the narrative, may have deterred publishers and theatre managers from touching it at a time when the subject was taboo.

Williams — a homosexual who once

described the condition as "a wound that never heals" — created in the play a raw passion and suffering reminiscent of his later classics, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Not *About Nightingales*, written in 1939 when Williams was 28, is set in a prison perched on an island. "It is tough and abrasive," Mr Nunn said. "It's a protest against the way the justice system incarcerates with no education as part of its programme and even with no forgiveness as part

of its concept. It is a protest about a culture of vengeance."

Part of the reason that the play had remained hidden, it seems, is that the playwright's estate had changed hands since his death in 1983 — from the late Maria St Just, Williams's close friend, to Casarotto Ramsey, agents for the University of the South in Tennessee. Miss Redgrave had stumbled across a reference to the play in Lyle Leverich's 1995 Williams biography which mentioned that he had written it and put it aside.

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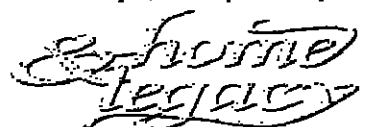
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Cook gives Major the nod in Labour's body politic

HANSARD should include a marginal note beside MPs' speeches, explaining what they mean. It could be brief, a fraction of the original. In their different ways yesterday, Robin Cook's head and Dennis Skinner's tongue helped provide it.

At Home Office Questions, Mr Skinner offered a running translation of Jack Straw's replies. Hugh Bayley (Lab, City of York), impatient of the voting system, asked the new Home Secretary what he meant by "early". Straw

flannelled, "Not too soon," growled Skinner.

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) asked if Tony Blair was "still opposed" to proportional representation. Straw hesitated. "As near as dammit," growled Skinner. He should operate subtleties to the Commons show. They give the game away.

As did Robin Cook's head, in the debate on Europe which followed. His first Commons speech as Foreign Secretary was shrewd, poised and clever. John Major's last speech as Leader of the

Conservative Party was impressive in sweep and sage in tone. But it was body language which caught attention as no argument can. Robin Cook kept nodding as John Major spoke.

At first Mr Cook took no notice. Mr Major began by trotting routinely through the obligatory party metaphor, calling Cook's frontbench colleagues "starry-eyed" and accusing the Government of carrying "a white flag" to the Amsterdam summit. Cook, who had just sat down, was not listening. Huddling with



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

colleagues over a scrawled note handed to him (we could not see from whom), he looked bothered.

Then Major moved from generalisation to detail. Where other speakers swan confidently through large themes but stumble as they hit the small print, the former Prime Minister sounds unconvinced by his own rhetoric but gathers force as his speech reaches the nitty-gritty. A relaxed Major spoke with command about the problems with "qualified majority voting".

It was then I noticed Robin Cook. He had for some time been listening with growing attentiveness. Now he was nodding in assent.

A Labour backbencher,

meaning to help his front bench, interrupted Major to protest that qualified majority voting in Europe could help Britain override smaller nations. Major replied that small nations are not the problem: the problem was that others might seek to override Britain. We needed to be able to block unwelcome measures. Again (and to my surprise) Cook was nodding.

Major turned to the single European currency. "Certainly we should not enter in 1999," Cook nodded. Perhaps

Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea E) also intended to help his Foreign Secretary when he interrupted Major to accuse him of advocating a British veto on other European nations going ahead with a single currency, even without Britain. What partners did, he suggested, was none of our business. Vehemently, Major replied that it was indeed our business because there could be "real and damaging effects to this country" if a single currency adopted by others went wrong. If it foundered, its

wreck would make every European problem so far "a vicarious tea party" by comparison.

Again, Cook was nodding. By now Major felt he had sounded a sufficient note of alarm about Europe's direction, and it was time to accennuate the positive. He had never been hostile to Europe, he insisted. Sir Edward Heath had been right to take Britain into the Community. The European Union was "a force for good."

Robin Cook had stopped nodding.

Harman looks to replace cash in benefit reforms

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

HARRIET HARMAN and Frank Field have drawn up a 10-year programme to reform the welfare state, including proposals to replace cash benefits with other forms of help.

The Social Security Secretary and her deputy, Mr Field, have put together an ambitious agenda to curb the £90 billion social security bill stretching well into the next century. They are said already to have submitted a rough outline of their plans, which focus on different ways of supplementing state support, to the Prime Minister.

Tony Blair has already made clear that welfare reform is one of his top priorities and he called Mr Field to Downing Street only days after he became Prime Minister to urge him to "think the unthinkable".

One of the most far-reaching ideas is a scheme to review the balance between cash benefits and community care for the sick and the disabled.

Ms Harman is looking at the whole range of disability allowances and assessing whether some payments could be replaced by providing help for disabled people in the home. In the long term this approach could be extended to



Field: Blair urged him to think the unthinkable

other benefits. Sources said Ms Harman was keen to "redress the balance between cash benefits and care".

Another area which Mr Field is particularly keen on is setting up new institutions to offer benefits to individuals, or "mutualities" which is now the buzz word in Whitehall. Friendly societies or trade unions could offer individuals insurance against sickness, unemployment or long term care.

Mr Field is also keen to give people a greater stake in their own welfare by making them more aware of how their money is being spent. One idea is to transform the National Insurance contributions

system to make it more autonomous and managed for its contributors. Each person would be given an individual account with annual statements of where their cash is going.

The 10-year programme which has been drawn up for Mr Blair is said to have included three options for the current benefit system:

- Supplementing state provision with private sector funding. One example is the proposed stakeholder pension to supplement the basic state pension.
- Replacing existing schemes altogether especially means tested benefits. One suggestion is a new care pension - which would be given to those looking after dependents, to replace existing carer allowances.
- New programmes, such as the universal mortgage insurance scheme.

The ideas are said to be at an early stage, with the details still to be fleshed out. But Mr Blair has made clear to his European colleagues over the last week that welfare reform should now be at the top of every country's agenda, arguing that European economies including Britain's could no longer sustain the current high levels of welfare payments.

Leading article, page 23



Bertie Ahern's appointment of Albert Reynolds was described as a sick joke

Ahern angers Unionists by giving Reynolds peace role

By AUDREY MAGEE AND NICHOLAS WATT

UNIONISTS reacted angrily after Bertie Ahern announced yesterday that he would appoint Albert Reynolds as his personal envoy to Northern Ireland. One senior Unionist described the idea as a "sick joke", while a loyalist leader dismissed the proposal as "off the wall".

Their comments came after the Fianna Fail leader confirmed that the former Irish Prime Minister would play a key role in his new Government's dealings with North-

ern Ireland. It was unclear precisely what role Mr Reynolds would have because he will not have a Cabinet seat.

Mr Reynolds, who is credited with convincing republicans to declare a ceasefire in 1994, said he hoped to make a contribution to restoring peace in Ireland. He said: "There is a mood for going forward again and I would hope that we can bring everybody to the table. But, of course, we have to see an IRA ceasefire in place and I would like to see work being

done behind the scenes to build the right environment for both ceasefires being restored."

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said: "I don't want the same sort of thing happening as happened when Albert Reynolds made a deal - and we don't know the deal that he made with Sinn Féin - which brought about the bogus ceasefire of 1994 and finished up with Canary Wharf and Manchester."

Payments agreed on banned weapons

By JAMES LANDALE

PARLIAMENT last night backed proposals to compensate thousands of handgun owners whose weapons have been banned.

Home Office officials expect more than 160,000 large-calibre handguns to be handed in to the police at a cost to taxpayers of almost £170 million. Shooting organisations believe that the figure will be substantially bigger.

All handguns over 22 calibre were banned earlier this year under the Firearms Act. However, the compensation scheme requires separate legislation which came before Houses of Commons and the Lords last night. Peers backed the scheme without a vote.

The handgun ban comes into force on July 1 and owners will have until October 1 to hand weapons in to police stations. After negotiations between the Home Office and the shooting lobby, owners can either accept a flat rate of £150 for each handgun or get an independent valuation of up to £775 for the market price of more expensive weapons. The £169 million compensation total comprises £150 million for the handguns and £19 million for ammunition and ancillary equipment.

Initial plans for the market price to be cut by 40 per cent for wear and tear have been reduced to a cut of 25 per cent. Shooting organisations said this means the compensation bill will be higher than the Government predicts.

Government plans to ban the remaining handguns are before Parliament and will be debated by MPs tomorrow. Labour's majority of 180 means that the total ban should be passed easily, despite protests from pro-shooting MPs and peers.

The moves came as Labour MPs stepped up their campaign to close the rifle range in the House of Commons and to set up a crèche instead.

Review of cancer screening

A national review of breast screening programmes is being considered by the Government after evidence that there were delays in detecting cancer in nine women, two of whom later died of cancer.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the Commons yesterday that he had asked Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the way the women were treated when they were seen by the East Devon Breast Screening Service.

Lottery numbers

Plans by Camelot to launch a third televised National Lottery show appeared to suffer a setback when official figures showed that the BBC's live coverage of last Saturday's draw achieved its lowest ratings, with 6.2 million viewers.

Radio fine

Piccadilly Radio in Manchester has been fined £10,000 by the Radio Authority after the presenter James Stange suggested on air that five teenage joyriders who died in a car crash had "got what they deserved". Stange was suspended.

Tunnel's last two

Only two tunnellers remained on the site of Manchester airport's second runway after an unwell pregnant woman and a man were brought to the surface. Two men are deep in the 100ft network, behind at least eight locked metal doors.

Air mail

Five of Britain's most famous aircraft designers are commemorated on a new set of stamps. Those featured on the "architects of the air" series include Roy Chadwick, designer of the Lancaster (26p), and Reginald Mitchell, the Spitfire (20p).

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Tories' parties

Continued from page 1

a Cabinet minister, who lost his seat and who is fighting an expensive libel action. Smokers had to flick their ash in plastic containers. Yards of tin foil was unfurled to protect the carpets and antique furniture.

Kenneth Clarke, predictably, was one of the last to arrive at his party at the Institution of Civil Engineers. While guests, including Lord Whitelaw, the former Deputy Prime Minister, drank red and white wine Mr Clarke, in his trademark Hush Puppy shoes, the most potent political prop since Harold Wilson's pipe, drank glasses of beer, brought in especially for him. The only food on offer was cheese and onion crisps.

David Curry, one of his campaign managers, said:



Clark: "No wonder we are out of touch"

"Ken Clarke is partying with the same degree of frugality with which he ran the economy. We don't need champagne to persuade anyone."

First out of the blocks in the soiree stakes was John Redwood who kicked off his tea party at 4.30pm in dining room A at the House of Commons. The former Welsh Secretary drew an initial crowd of around 40 MPs to his afternoon event in the bowels of the House of Commons where his Would-be supporters were treated to traditional English summer party fare of Pimm's and lemonade with tea and cakes.

How did the supporters take it? Some MPs were unimpressed. Alan Calrk, the maverick former minister who has not declared for any of the candidates, said: "The whole thing is ghastly and demeaning. No wonder people think we are out of touch."

Mr Clarke was confidently expected by Tory MPs last night to emerge today as the winner of the first round of the Tory leadership election.

Claims by the Michael Howard camp that he was now assured of at least third place in today's opening round brought accusations of "cooking the books" from the supporters of Mr Lilley and Mr Redwood, the other Right contenders. Voting will begin at 10 am and end at 5 pm.

The candidates, page 13

Robert Skidelsky, page 22

Rantzen attacked

Continued from page 1

case histories. "You care for the kids when you watch it, but what do you learn? There is nobody going on protest marches as a result of these films," he said.

Ms Rantzen, who helped to found the Childline charity in 1986, said that her programmes were valuable and informative. It was paramount to ensure that vulnerable people who were featured retained their dignity throughout the programme.

"People have seen me campaigning out on windswept street corners for the best part of 30 years. They know who I am and I have found a way of reaching them," she said.

The difference between her work and Mr Watson's was not necessarily one of quality, but one of taste, she said. She, too, issued a warning to voluntary organisations. "You must ask very serious questions of the crew before you let them in for a long time. Beware of intellectual and charming men like Paul Watson. If his cameras are in your lives over a long period of time, after a while your defences go down and you cease to be aware of what he is filming."

The conference, in London, was organised by the Media Trust and sponsored by News International, owner of The Times.

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My heart bleeds to see Kray in court, says Mad Frankie

By ALAN HAMILTON

CHARLIE KRAY, elder brother of the notorious twins who ruled gangland London in the 1960s, was a lovely, lovely man who wouldn't say boo to a goose. In fact, he wouldn't even say boo to two geese, a court was told yesterday.

The eulogy was delivered by "Mad Frankie" Fraser, another leading player from that long-ago era whose pop stars are now knights and its villains either dead or coining an honest bob from showing murder scenes to tourists. Fraser earned an awesome reputation, and an eternity behind bars, as an enforcer for the rival Richardson gang, who ran the big rackets south of the Thames.

Fraser, 73, took the stand at Woolwich Crown Court in southeast London yesterday to attest to the good character of Kray, 70, who denies charges involving cocaine worth £39 million. The Crown alleges that he could have made £8 million profit, but for the fact the criminals he believed he was dealing with were undercover police officers.

His hair still dark but his face pallid from 42 years in prison, Fraser spoke in a deep, clear voice, apparently relishing the opportunity handed him by Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, to tell his life story. Judge and jury listened intently; Kray, apart from a brief upward glance as Fraser entered, sat behind the glass screen of the dock flanked by prison officers and stared intently at the floor.

Fraser recalled how he had been better known as "Mad Frankie" when he worked as an enforcer for Charles and Eddie Richardson's empire of one-armed bandits and scrap-metal yards. The rival Krays made their money mainly



Kray in 1965, when the East End was "safe"

from clubs. He explained that he was now married to Marilyn Wisbey, daughter of a Great Train Robber, and since leaving prison in 1989 was doing his best to go straight and earn a living from running guided tours of the high spots of East End villainy. He remarked with some pride that his autobiography had been reprinted ten times.

Asked by Mr Goldberg if it was true that, during his long years in prison, he had been on bread-and-water punishment more than anyone else, Fraser replied: "I would put money on that one." He also agreed that he had received the cat-o-nine-tails three times. How many strokes, Mr Goldberg asked him. "I was greedy — 18 each time."

Smartly dressed in a white shirt, striped tie, checked jacket and black trousers, Fraser said there had been little conflict between the Kray and Richardson gangs, except among the lower ranks. Then senior figures would step in and restore the peace. "So," Mr Goldberg asked, "it was like the Cold War between America and Russia?" Fraser

agreed it was. Despite inter-gang rivalry, Fraser was really quite friendly with the Krays, and had known Charlie for 40 years. "They were very good to me when I was serving a sentence. They used to take my sister to visit me."

Full-scale war almost erupted when Ronnie Kray murdered George Cornell, a Richardson henchman, in the Blind Beggar pub. Why, Mr Goldberg asked, did that killing happen? "He must have spoken to Ronnie not as well as he should have done," Fraser explained, adding that the Blind Beggar was now on his guided tour. "I'd recommend you to have a drink there; it's very nice."

Pressing the point, Mr Goldberg asked what exactly Cornell had said to offend Ronnie Kray. "Theory has it he said Ronnie was a big fat poof, but that was not true." Whatever Cornell had actually said, Fraser agreed, it was not very nice.

The questioning then turned to Charlie Kray, and Mr Goldberg asked if he was in the same mould as his younger brothers. "Impossible, never, ever," Fraser replied emphatically. "He was not like that; he wouldn't say boo to a goose. He's a lovely man — a coward, but a lovely man."

Had war erupted between the rival gangs, would Charlie have been targeted by the Richardsons? "No way at all, of course not," Fraser replied. Far from running organised crime, Charlie ran a coat factory and an entertainment business.

Fraser recalled how he and Charlie were in Albany prison on the Isle of Wight during the hot summer of 1972, when most of the prisoners went on strike. Charlie Kray was one of six inmates who chose to keep his nose clean, putting on



Fraser received the cat-o-nine-tails three times. "I was greedy — 18 each time"

his collar and tie in the morning to walk to work past the jeers and catcalls of his fellow prisoners. Fraser looked over to the dock, where Kray sat, bowed and motionless. "He had his principles. He was a lovely man; he couldn't do nothing wrong. My heart bleeds to see him there."

Mr Goldberg asked Fraser if Charlie Kray was into any crime at all. "None at all," Fraser replied.

When the questioning turned to the subject of drugs, Fraser said the Krays and the Richardsons were dead ag-

ainst them — not least because they hardly existed in those days. When the Krays were in the East End, women and children were 100 per cent free and safe. No muggings, nothing like that. Violence was strictly between gangs, and other people were never involved, Fraser said. "To this day the Krays are quite rightly idolised."

John Kelsey-Fry, for the Crown, asked if Kray was capable of dealing in drugs. "He could not do it, not for a single day, not for a minute. You are probably more into drugs than him," a reply that

earned a swift rebuke from Judge Carroll. Would Mr Fraser refrain from making comments, Fraser apologised, and continued his eulogy. "Charlie wouldn't only not say boo to a goose, he wouldn't say boo to two geese."

The Crown sat down. The defence thanked Fraser for his attendance, and said he was now free to go. Fraser half-raised a right arm in triumph. "This is the first time I've ever walked out of a court free," he announced to laughter. Even Charlie Kray managed the ghost of a smile.

The trial continues.

Art dealer tells how he lost out on £200,000 Constable deal

By ADRIAN LEE

A DEALER in fine art lost almost £200,000 commission when he was squeezed out of the sale of a £6.7 million Constable painting to the furniture tycoon Sir Graham Kirkham, the High Court was told yesterday.

View On Stour, an oil sketch, was one of three important works sold by the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College between 1992 and 1994 to raise funds for renovation work.

Peter Nahum, 50, who runs his own gallery and has appeared as an expert on the BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow*, had already arranged the sale of *Peasants Going to Market*, by Gainsborough, to Sir Graham for £3.5 million, the court heard. He was paid £100,000 commission but said he was assured that Sir Graham did not want to buy the Constable.

He said he was angry and upset when he later discovered that the college's "secret buyer" for the Constable was Sir Graham, one of Britain's richest men. Mr Nahum claims he is entitled to £196,000 plus interest, because without him the college, in Egham, Surrey, would never have been introduced to Sir Graham, a backer of the Conservative Party who was honoured by John Major. The college denies it had any contact with Mr Nahum to sell the second painting.

Mr Nahum, who had hoped to arrange the sale of all three paintings for more than £20 million, earning him £500,000 commission, read in a newspaper that Sir Graham had bought the Constable. He confronted another art dealer, Alan Hobart, also Sir Graham's agent. Mr Hobart was, at the time, a close friend of 20 years, said Mr Nahum, and the man who had told him Sir Graham had no interest. "I was angry. My friend had told me [Sir Graham] was not interested in buying that picture. I did think it extraordinary that someone should go behind my back."

Joe Smouha, for Mr Nahum, said it later emerged that Mr Hobart and an academic, Professor Norman McConkey, dean of arts and design at the University of Northumbria, had received commission from Sir Graham for arranging the second purchase. His client had been cut out of the deal, and the college did not pay any commission. It asserts

that the deal was arranged directly with Sir Graham's representatives.

Mr Nahum said the normal rate of commission was between 10 and 15 per cent but he had agreed to work for 2.5 per cent because of the high value of the art. He was one of a number of dealers seeking purchasers on behalf of the college and estimated his costs were more than £30,000.

He had visited 90 museums and galleries in the United States during his two-year search. The first work, *Von Troop Going About*, by Turner, was sold to the Getty Museum without Mr Nahum's help, so he received no commission.

All three works were among a collection of 77 bequeathed to the college by one of its founders, Thomas Holloway, in 1886. The col-



Kirkham: bought two paintings from college

lege's decision to sell had itself attracted controversy. Mr Smouha said the agreement between Mr Nahum, owner of the Leicester Galleries in London, whose fees are £1,000 a day, and Mr Hobart was verbal. "It is the norm... in the fine art world, not to reduce such agreements to contracts in writing."

The court was told that Mr Nahum and Mr Hobart were no longer friends. Mr Nahum, who previously worked for Sotheby's, said: "My feeling is that the college were dealing in a market they did not truly understand and they did not have an adviser."

There is no suggestion that Sir Graham Kirkham the son of a miner who made his estimated £260 million fortune through the flotation of the DFS furniture company, acted improperly. The case continues.

'Charlie has not got an ounce of badness in him'

By ALAN HAMILTON



Sheridan-Price: impressed by Kray's younger brothers

THE defence produced an entire cast of East Enders at Woolwich Crown Court to attest to the virtues and good nature of Charlie Kray.

"Mad Frankie" Fraser was followed by a string of supporting acts. William Murray, who plays Detective Sergeant Beech in ITV's *The Bill*, said Kray had funded his first year at Joan Littlewood's East End acting school, and had given him £400 to live on, a substantial sum at the time. When the actor was awarded a grant and offered to repay the money, he said Kray had told him: "Keep it. It's a long life."

Mr Murray, 54, who gave his address as that of his agent in central London, said that all three Kray brothers were like that. "There was

many a time they were sticking a fiver in my pocket. Charlie was a generous man. He was regarded as a gentleman. He was different from the other two." In recent years he always claimed to have a deal going, whether in oil or South African gold, but none were genuine. "Anyone who actually believed him would have to have a brain cell missing."

Eileen Sheridan-Price, who was the first Miss Great Britain in 1960, and the first Miss UK, described Kray as the salt of the earth. "He is a lovely rascal. The whole world is a happier place every time he comes to the door. He has not got an ounce of malice or badness in him." In recent years, she said, Kray had been so broke that he could not afford more than one suit, nor a trip to the barber. She admitted that she had been

impressed by the style, charisma and integrity of his younger brothers. The world had been a much safer place when they were around. Asked whether any of the Krays would ever have had anything to do with drugs, he replied: "Certainly not. It was alien to their make up. I feel very vehement about that. I remember Charlie saying to me once, 'Anybody who pushes drugs is the scum of the earth.'"

Michelle Hamdouchi, a nightclub worker, told the court that she had had a two-week affair with one of the undercover police officers in the case, whom she knew as Brian. They had met in a Birmingham nightclub, where Kray was also a guest. She said the officer, who earlier in the trial denied suggestions of an affair, had given the impression he was a

drug dealer and was involved in setting up a cocaine deal with Kray. Mrs Hamdouchi, 32, said that, during their affair, she and Brian had stayed at the Swallow Hotel in Waltham Abbey, Essex, where they and another undercover officer, referred to as Jack, had spent hours at the bar drinking with the Spice Girl Victoria Adams.

Mrs Hamdouchi said that Brian had told her he was there to see Kray about a drugs deal, and that he had £63,000 in the boot of his car. After Kray had been arrested, Mrs Hamdouchi said she had received a telephone call from Brian saying he had to lie low for a while. She had not seen him again.

Asked by Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, to describe Brian, she replied: "Well, he's fat."

Bus driver died after attack by gang of women

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BRITISH coach driver who died in hospital two months after being found apparently the victim of a female criminal gang, emerged at an inquest yesterday.

Joe Baines, a 53-year-old father of five, died in hospital in Durham in December, two months after suffering severe head injuries when he was repeatedly attacked in a park in the capital of the Czech Republic.

The inquest was told that Mr Baines and three other drivers who had taken two coach loads of Hull University students to Prague had a night out in the city and were chatting up by a group of women who wanted to take them in taxis to another bar. Of the three who went with the women, two later returned to their hotel minus their wallets, and Mr Baines was found lying in a park, battered and stripped of his cash and valuables.

James Sunter, a pathologist, said Mr Baines died from pneumonia which developed as he lay unconscious as a result of severe brain damage. He said the injuries suggested Mr Baines had been attacked from behind, with several blows being struck rather than a single devastating one.

Recording a verdict that Mr Baines, from Durham, was unlawfully killed, Geoffrey Burt, the north Durham coroner, said: "It seems to me that the three drivers who were robbed had been the subject of some preconceived plan by

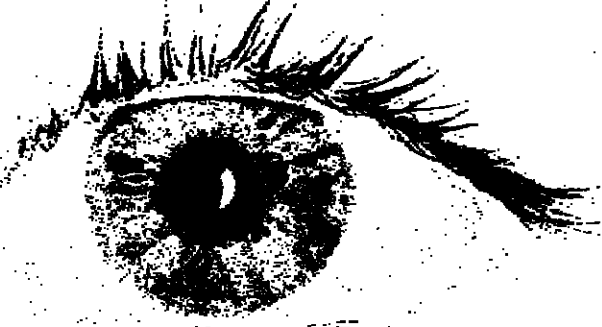
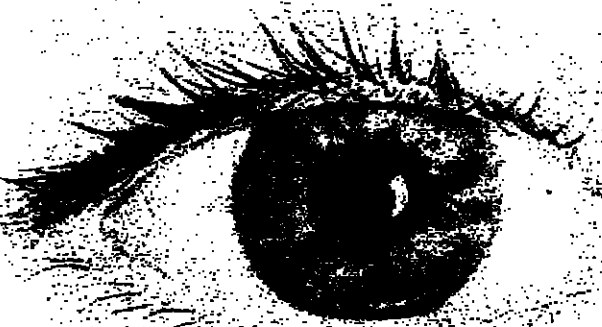
local residents to rob foreign nationals. They had been lured away in taxis or to remote places and robbed of their possessions. It may be Mr Baines resisted and was attacked. Quite clearly he was viciously attacked and robbed."

The inquest was told that the drivers' encounter with the women in a bar was their second brush with female thieves that night. Earlier, as they walked through the city, six women had accosted them, one of them grabbing Billy Fairless's wallet and fleeing. He said he chased her and recovered his money.

He said that after the second group of women approached them in a bar, his legs suddenly "felt fuzzy". When he finally got back to the hotel he reached for his wallet to pay the taxi fare and it was not there. Stuart Dobson, a fellow driver, said he felt "woozy" the morning afterwards, which was unusual for him. He also had his wallet which had contained £600, stolen.

The only driver who did not go was Stephen Barlow, who told the hearing he refused to join the other three and the women and took a train back to the hotel alone. When he heard about the other two being robbed he did not feel very sympathetic.

The drivers said they reported the women's actions to the local police. They took officers to the bar where they were accosted and were shown pictures of women but could not identify any of them.



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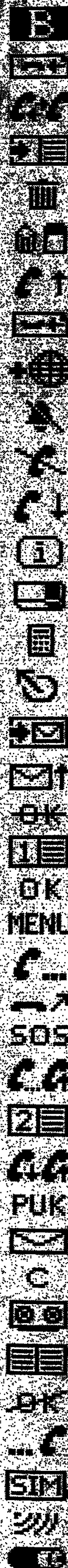
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Oyster firm sues over Ritz food poison claim

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A HIGH Court jury was handed two dozen oysters yesterday at the start of a libel action brought by a supplier of shellfish to the Ritz Hotel in London.

But the oysters had been vacuum sealed and sealed with Araldite and were not for eating but for examining, said Jonathan Crystal, representing Colchester Oyster Fishery. He asked the jury to spot the difference between the native oyster and the rock, or Pacific, oyster, which was blamed for a series of outbreaks of illness in 1991. "It's not every jury which is treated to bags of oysters at the beginning of a case," he told them. But the difference between the two species of oyster was central to the case, he explained.

It was rock oysters from Ireland which made diners at the Ritz ill in December 1991, not native oysters which Colchester Oyster Fishery Limited supplied, he told the jury. Despite the difference, Christopher Purslow, a hygiene consultant employed by the Ritz to investigate the food poisoning, wrongly attributed



Christopher Purslow: blamed Colchester firm

it to oysters supplied by Colchester Oyster Fisheries.

His report was sent to the Ritz, its loss adjusters and a rival shellfish supplier, Colchester Oyster Fisheries and its director Roger Kerrison claim damages for loss of reputation and sales. Mr Crystal said in the winter of 1991 there were four outbreaks of food poisoning among diners at London's Savoy Hotel, Le Pont de la Tour and Café Fish which were linked to rock

oysters. None of these however was supplied by Colchester Oyster Fisheries.

In December 1991 a dinner party of eight had eaten in the Ritz dining room, consuming salad of warm oysters, roast Norfolk Turkey and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. "Twenty-four hours later the organiser and six of her guests were severely unwell," Mr Crystal said.

A week later, 20 diners gathered for their firm's Christmas celebration also ate the same menu and hours later eight were also unwell. Mr Purslow, who was on a retainer with the Ritz to investigate food hygiene, was asked to look into the matter. After hospital tests, the gastric poisoning was found to come from rock oysters deriving from Cork harbour in Ireland, where there was a history of contamination in the oyster beds by raw sewage.

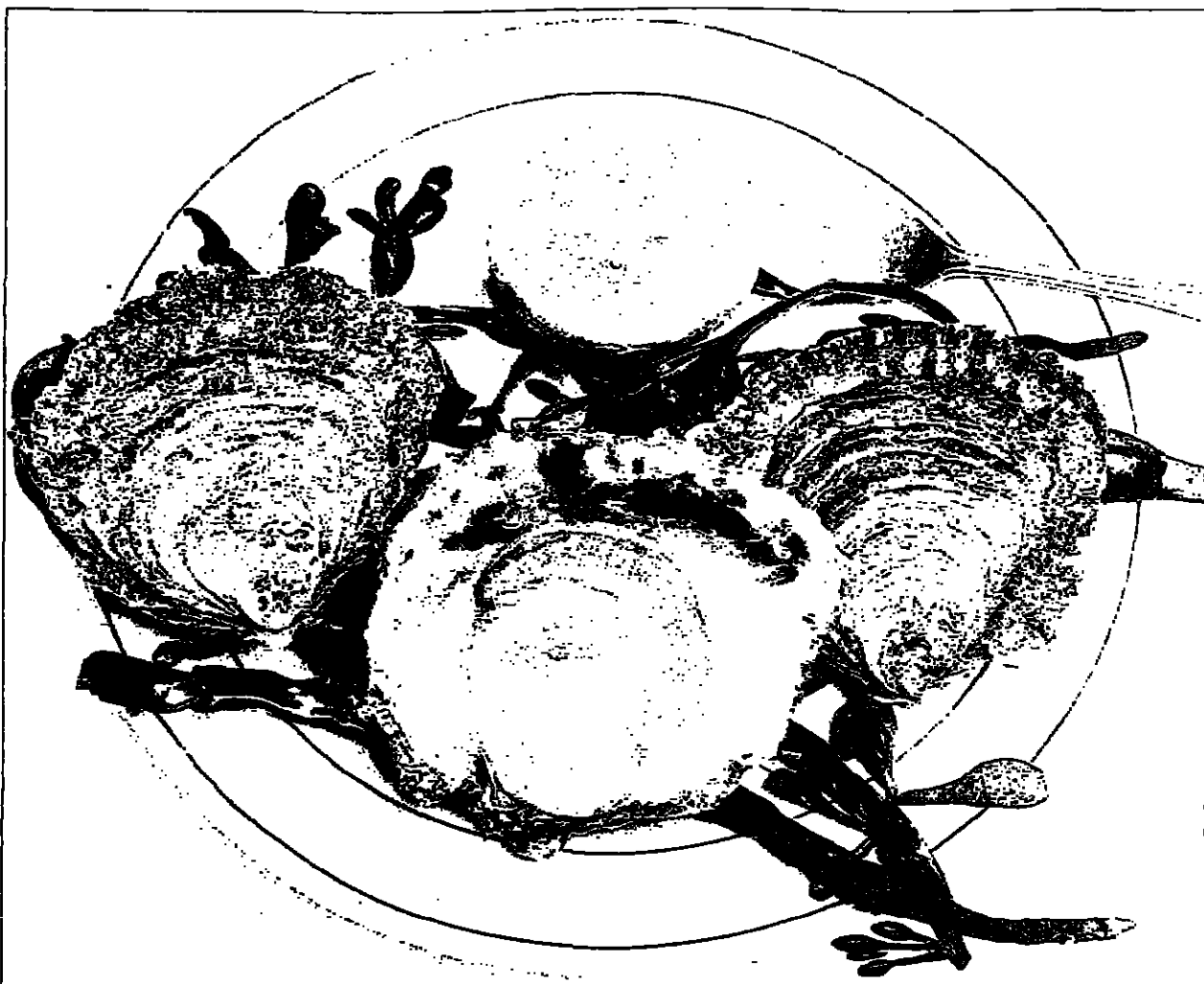
Mr Purslow then wrote his report wrongly naming Colchester Oyster Fisheries as the supplier of the oysters without checking the hotel's invoices and receipts. "He had named the wrong supplier, Colchester Oyster Fisheries

were not supplying rock oysters to the Ritz in 1991 because they were supplying native oysters," Mr Crystal said.

The result was that Colchester Oyster Fishery had suffered loss of reputation and sales and they were now claiming damages. Mr Crystal told the jury: "You would not wish to be accused of poisoning your guests and so it was with my clients who were being accused of poisoning Ritz Hotel diners."

In fact, the jury would be hearing from the Ritz's store manager who would tell them he had a standing order for rock oysters with The Atlantic Shellfish Company. In January of 1992 Colchester Oyster Fisheries were contacted by the Ritz's loss adjusters who told them they would have to cover compensation claims by the hotel guests. Despite immediately writing to Mr Purslow asking for a correction, the company has never heard back.

Mr Crystal told the jury they would have to decide if Mr Purslow's report defamed Colchester Oyster Fisheries. Chris Purslow & Associates deny libel. The case continues.



Pacific oysters were said to have poisoned Ritz diners, but the Colchester company says it did not supply them

'Osteopath was murdered over secret drug deal'

By A STAFF REPORTER

TO colleagues and friends Danny Dyke was an admired osteopath and avid rugby fan. What none knew was that the 31-year-old bachelor led a double life supplying drugs and that a dispute over a deal led to him being murdered and buried in a concrete coffin on a Welsh hillside.

To cover their crime the three-man gang accused of murdering Mr Dyke are alleged to have twice exhumed his body, doused it in petrol and then reburied it encased in concrete. They then covered his makeshift hillside grave in rubble, Swansea Crown Court was told.

Detectives had all but given up searching for Mr Dyke, who worked as a physiotherapist and played rugby for Eastbourne. Then last year one of the gang, John Welsby,

led police to the remote grave.

John Welsby, 38, and his brother Terence, 41, and a nightclub bouncer John Wilson, 38, all deny murder. The court was told how Mr Dyke, who worked as an osteopath in Neath and Swansea, had driven from his home near Eastbourne to South Wales in April 1994 to collect money owed to him from drug deals.

Christopher Llewellyn-Jenkins, for the prosecution, said Mr Dyke had built up a sophisticated undercover drugs network with dealers in London, South Wales and near his home in Friston, East Sussex, where he lived with his mother, Suzanne.

He told how on April 13, Dyke drove to Swansea in his Ford RS Turbo to collect £16,000 from Mr Welsby. He then headed for Mr Wilson's home in search of more cash. There Mr Wilson was joined by the Welsby brothers and there was an argument over money in the kitchen.

"In the kitchen of the house Daniel Dyke was attacked and killed. His body was wrapped in the kitchen carpet and put into the back of a van," Mr Llewellyn-Jenkins said.

The trial continues.

CORRECTION

Comments from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (report May 23) were wrongly attributed to the Scottish Cot Death Trust, at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. We apologise for the error.

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Nanny's slap 'left handprint on boy'

By TIM JONES

A TEENAGE nanny slapped a little boy so hard that the imprints of her hand could be seen on his bruised bottom. A court was told yesterday.

Stacey Spence, 19, a qualified nanny, allegedly hit the 2½-year-old after what she claimed was "an absolutely horrendous day" looking after him and his sister, aged five. Christopher Gray, for the prosecution, told Northampton Crown Court that the boy, who cannot be named, also had clumps of hair missing, friction burns to his back and elbow and two injured fingers. When Miss Spence left for home the boy burst into tears and clung to his mother.

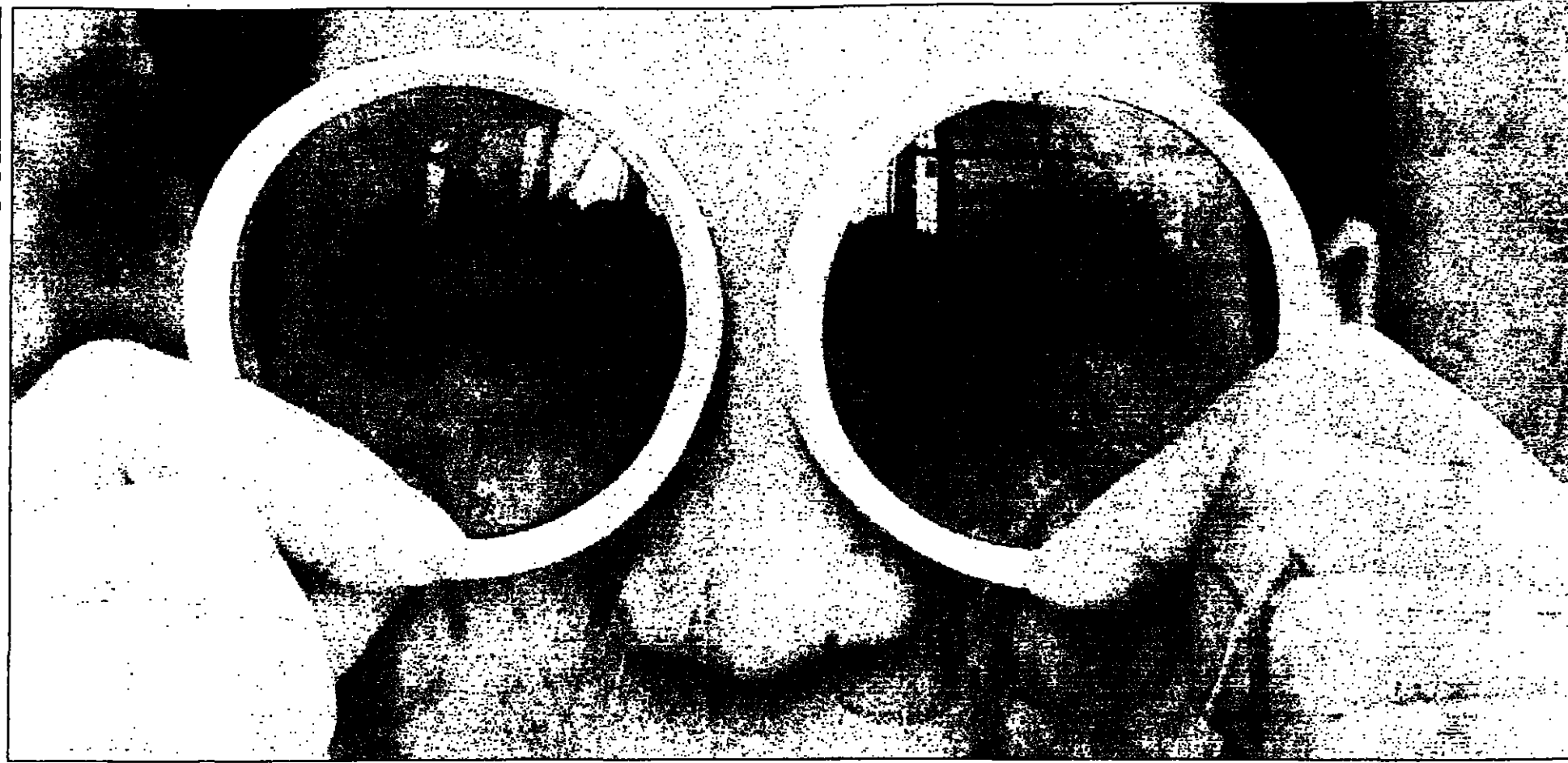
Mr Gray said the parents had employed Miss Spence because they knew her family, who lived in the same village. He said that, after returning home last October, the father found his son shaking and he and Miss Spence seemed to be stressed.

"When he asked Miss Spence what was up she said the boy had been worse than ever," Mr Gray said. "She said she had a headache and had had an awful day. She said the boy had wet and soiled his pants and she had had to give him a bath. She said he had spat out his lunch over the table and some had gone over his sister."

Miss Spence, the court heard, had told the mother that her son had been very disobedient and had given her "an absolutely horrendous day". She admitted smacking the boy on the bottom, but claimed that it had been only a tap.

While being changed for bed, the boy clung to his mother, who saw the bruises on his bottom. He also had spots of blood on his scalp where hair was missing and limped on his left leg. The mother, an NHS radiologist, said her son was terrified when Miss Spence arrived for work the next day. She said: "I don't employ people to hit my children. I never smack my children."

Miss Spence, from Thrapston, Northamptonshire, denies inflicting actual bodily harm on the boy. The trial continues.



Improved vision: David Harris with two of his coloured contact lenses yesterday. The design works by tricking the brain into seeing colours differently, giving more vivid hues

Contact lens could cure colour blindness

By PAUL WILKINSON

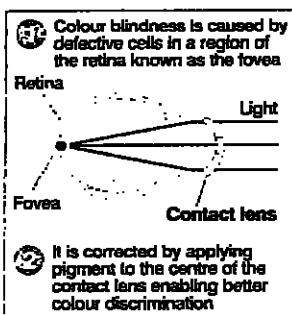
A CONTACT lens designed to help people suffering from colour blindness has been developed by an optician at St James's Hospital in Leeds.

The problem is common, affecting one in 12 British men and one in 300 women, but until now there has been no way of correcting it. The contact lens, called ChromaGen, has been devised by David Harris, and works by tricking the brain into seeing colours differently.

In the past month he has perfected a method of applying the pigment to ordinary spectacles. Technicians coat the outer surface of the lenses with a gold-silver mix, making them look like sunglasses.

Mr Harris, 37, who runs a laser treatment centre in Liverpool, has spent two years on the design. At the centre of the lens is a suitable pigment, chosen to suit the particular patient. While it does nothing to change the basic problem of a defect in the retina, the pigment enables colour-blind people to see more vivid hues.

Clinical tests of his lenses on a sample of 275 people has



improved colour vision in 96.7 per cent of them, he claims.

Men are more prone to colour blindness than women because they have different chromosomes. The condition is caused by a defect in cells in the retina, which detects individual colours and mixes them to give the brain the correct shade. Most sufferers have problems with discerning either red or green. In the worst red-deficient cases, sufferers see it as black.

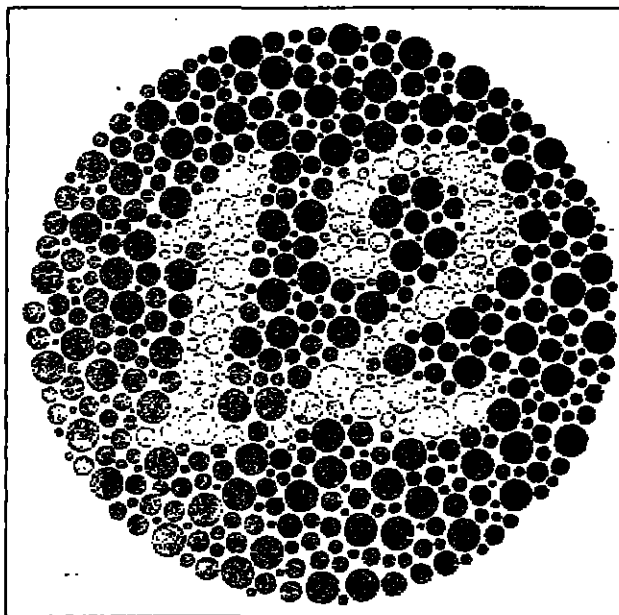
Mr Harris's process adds a colour to compensate for the deficiency. He said: "It's not quite as simple as adding red to make up for a red deficiency. What works for one person might not work for another who apparently has the same

problem. By using a set of 26 different tints we can see what works for the individual.

"There were attempts in the late 1960s and early 1970s to use coloured lenses to improve colour vision, but they were unsuccessful. I have based my research on that and finally made the breakthrough about a year ago. Patients most often describe the effect as an intensifying of their colour vision, enabling them to more accurately identify colours that might otherwise have been confused.

"A tiny amount of pigment is added to the centre of the lens. It is not apparent to the casual observer, because it is over the pupil, but the wearer sees a colour-enhanced view. Normally we need to do it only for one eye, it is enough for the brain to create a correct picture from the images received from both eyes."

So far 400 people are using the new lenses but Mr Harris is setting up a national training scheme for opticians. The first six are expected to qualify shortly. They will operate the system under licence and the lenses will retail at between £200 and £300. Mr Harris



Pick a number: standard test for colour-blindness

said: "They are unlikely to be available on the National Health Service, as any kind of contact lens is difficult to get on the NHS these days. However, some fundholding GPs have been prepared to buy them for patients."

The lenses will not mean

that people who were previously barred from jobs where correct colour vision was essential will now be able to find employment. Mr Harris said: "The Civil Aviation Authority, for example, which requires perfect colour vision for pilots, will not change their minds."

but police forces are showing an interest.

"And in areas where safety is not a requirement, anything from mixing paint to the electronics industry when things like picking out the correct colour-coded resistor are important, it will of great benefit."

Stephen Spall, the administrator of the Corneal Laser Centre at St James's, said: "It is such a simple idea that people will ask why it was not developed before now. But as with all inventions it is often the simplest which prove to be the best."

"The astounding thing about all this is that the lenses themselves have nothing particularly special about them. The success of ChromaGen is more dependent on how the patients react to them. No one really knows how they work."

Stephen Lofthouse, a 37-year-old sales executive of Dewsbury, west Yorkshire, has red-green colour blindness. The condition improved with ChromaGen lenses. He said: "I never realised what it was like to see colours as they really are. I had a very drab view of the world."

Nuclear flights are safe, says company

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that lives are being put at risk by flights of nuclear waste across Britain were dismissed last night by British Nuclear Fuels.

Consignments of plutonium and uranium between Sellafield, in Cumbria, and the Continent will become more frequent when a spent-fuel reprocessing plant comes on stream. Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, has said that the flights will cross his constituency. It is claimed that the emergency services are worried about the risks of an air crash. Mr MacShane said yesterday that Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, had agreed to meet him to discuss his concerns. He added that he would be calling for a ban on flights of plutonium.

BNFL confirmed yesterday that a test flight of the new fuel, called mixed oxide, was made last year between Britain and Switzerland. But the company denied that flights went over heavily populated areas. "Nuclear materials, including plutonium and mixed oxide fuel, have been safely transported by air by the civil nuclear power industry for over 30 years. There has never been an accident involving the release of radioactivity."

"Flights have been conducted in complete safety from Carlisle airport for many years," a spokesman said. The company said that the containers met United Nations safety standards and more stringent company tests.

The MOX plant, which turns spent fuel into a hard ceramic blend of nuclear materials, is set to come fully on stream after consultation by the Department of the Environment. The Environment Agency is studying air freight.

Dr John Hazzard, a nuclear physicist at Imperial College, London, told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that he believed the flights were at least partly motivated "by the political requirement to avoid the sort of confrontation with protesters which rail or road and sea travel seems to have attracted". He added: "If it has to be transported I can't think of a worse way to do it."

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Silent star's letters show truth behind the scandal

Archive may redeem Mabel Normand's reputation, says John Vincent

SHE was the original Twenties flapper, the "I don't care" girl whose fabulous film career ended amid rumours of drug abuse and murder.

Mabel Normand, brilliant comedienne, pioneer of early cinema and long-time lover of Mack Sennett, lived life to the full. But it was a wild and dissolute life and it led to her death at the age of 35 from a combination of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Sixty seven years later, her great-nephew is selling an archive of letters and photographs. The Rev Stephen Normand defends Normand's reputation fiercely. "She was actually a very kind and generous woman."

Mr Normand, a curate in St Albans, Hertfordshire, said yesterday: "I have spoken to many scholars and people who have known Mabel and no one has had a bad word to say about her. She became entangled in some famous scandals of her day, but she

was simply someone who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I hope the sale of the archive will help to set the record straight."

The papers are expected to fetch up to £4,000 at Phillips in London on Thursday; the proceeds will go to cancer research. They include intimate letters from her husband, the actor Lew Cody, as well as correspondence to and from friends, among them Mary Pickford, John Barrymore, Pola Negri and Norma Talmadge. The photographs include some of her as a child. More bizarre are a lock of hair cut from her head after her death, and X-rays of her teeth in 1924 and 1925.

Normand, who appeared in numerous films between 1911 and 1926, is described by the film historian Ephraim Katz as "perhaps the most talented comic star of the silent screen". She was also the only woman to have directed Charlie Chaplin, who greatly ad-

mired her comic technique and timing, and the first person to direct a film that grossed a million dollars: *Mickey*, in 1918.

Her love affair with Sennett, the actor, director and producer who described her as being "beautiful as a spring morning", was immortalised in the 1974 Broadway and West End musical *Mack and Mabel*.

According to her great-nephew, "Mabel was too trusting of Mack Sennett and this ultimately led to the breakdown of their relationship. In 1918 Mabel produced *Mickey*, her first feature-length film, but when Sennett saw the finished version, he led Mabel to believe that it was not very good and bought the rights from her for \$25,000."

Two years later, after Mabel moved on to the Goldwyn studio, Sennett released *Mickey* and it became an overnight success. After that,

Mabel felt she couldn't trust Mack Sennett any longer."

Normand, separated from Sennett for the first time in seven years, was soon caught up in a whirl of extravagant all-night parties and was rumoured to be addicted to drugs. In 1922 the director William Desmond Taylor, with whom Normand was romantically linked, was murdered. Although she was eventually cleared of any involvement, her image was permanently tarnished.

Then her chauffeur was found standing over the body of a Hollywood millionaire, Cortland S. Dines — and the smoking gun in his hand belonged to Normand. The double scandal had a shattering effect on her career and her popularity waned rapidly.

Her marriage to Cody, who played the villain in *Mickey*, was a last stab at happiness, as both of them were dying, she from a life of excess, he from a heart ailment.



Mabel Normand in *Raggedy Rose*. She was described as "the most talented comic star of the silent screen"

Bridgewater man in court over theft

By A STAFF REPORTER

MICHAEL HICKEY, one of the Bridgewater Four, was released on bail yesterday after he appeared in court charged with the theft of a gold ring and possession of a machete.

Mr Hickey, 36, appeared in a high-security courtroom at Birmingham Magistrates' Court flanked by security guards and dressed in blue denim shirt, blue jeans and blue socks, but no shoes. He appeared disorientated during the brief hearing, spoke to confirm his date of birth, his name and that he understood a charge of the theft of an 18-carat solitaire diamond ring worth £750 from a jewellery shop in Birmingham on Saturday. He was also charged with possessing an offensive weapon, a 10in machete.

An application for bail by Jim Nichol, for Mr Hickey, was granted by stipendiary magistrate Michael James, to muted cheers. Mr James adjourned the case for reports until June 30 and bailed Mr Hickey with a condition he live at an address in Kidderminster.

Mr Hickey, his cousin Vin-

cent Hickey, Jimmy Robinson and Patrick Molloy were jailed at Stafford Crown Court in 1979 for the shotgun killing of Carl Bridgewater, a newspaper delivery boy, at Yew Tree Farm near Stourbridge the previous year.

Vincent Hickey, then aged 25, and Mr Robinson, then 43, were sentenced to life and Michael Hickey was ordered to be detained indefinitely. Mr Molloy, jailed for manslaughter, died in prison in 1981.

The three survivors were released on unopposed bail by the Court of Appeal on February 21 this year. Their formal appeal began in April, lasted 22 days and was adjourned last month after judgment was reserved.

Outside court yesterday Ann Whelan, Mr Hickey's mother, who campaigned for his release, said she feared he was suffering from a psychiatric illness. "It's quite clear that Michael isn't well."

"I think he needs a lot of help. Any logically thinking person must see that you can't lock someone away for eighteen and a half years and then just throw them out. It's like life has gushed out at him and he's rushed at life but it's changed and he's finding it very difficult. It's just sad and unfortunate but what happened, happened."

She said that her son felt he wanted a quiet period away from the glare of media attention.

Michelle Beswick, Mr Hickey's girlfriend with whom he has lived since his release, said she was pleased that he would be going home. Miss Beswick, 31, said: "I just want him home, that's all. We will make sure that he does come back to court. He can't do all those many years without being affected but I'm doing the best I can to help him."



Hickey: in need of help, according to his mother

Climber walks on with broken neck

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CLIMBER walked two miles with a broken neck and fractured skull after a fall on Ben Nevis. Stanley Draycott, 48, from Rotherham, south Yorkshire, slipped on wet rocks and landed head first on a stone slab as he climbed Britain's highest mountain alone.

He was found by a party of German students who alerted a mountain rescue team. Last night he was said to be "badly shocked but stable and satisfactory" in the Queen Elizabeth spinal injuries unit of the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

"He is a lucky man," a hospital spokesman said. "He has to undergo a series of tests and scans but he had a high degree of movement in his neck, so the prognosis is potentially favourable."

Mr Draycott's wife, Suzanne, said: "I warned him not to walk alone. The terrain in Scotland is more difficult than what he is used to. I warned him about this trip but he is very stubborn. He usually

walks in the Lake District or Derbyshire but the terrain in Scotland is more dangerous."

"He insisted on going alone and I was terrified that something like this would happen. Hopefully now he will see sense and stick to easier walks with a group. The main thing is that he is alive. It could have been a lot worse."

Mr Draycott, a metallurgist with British Steel, was knocked unconscious in the fall on Sunday evening and came round after almost an hour. At about 10pm he stumbled on a group of students camping 1,500ft below where he fell. One ran to a youth hostel near by to raise the alarm.

Mr Draycott was carried off the mountain after midnight by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. It was not until doctors at Belford Hospital in Fort William examined him that it was realised he had broken bones in his neck and a fractured skull. He was then transferred to the Southern General Hospital.

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Weeping mother says premature baby was given no chance to live

By Shirley English

A MOTHER wept yesterday as she said that a doctor left her premature baby daughter to die in her arms after pronouncing her "not viable", even though she was moving and breathing normally.

Kirsty Cassidy, 22, said that Rebecca, who weighed 1lb 4oz, looked fine and was trying her hardest to live, but doctors just walked away. She told a fatal accident inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court that she screamed at Dr Faisal Al-Zidgali, a paediatrician, to put her daughter into intensive care, but that he took a brief look at the newborn child and decided she was beyond help.

Mrs Cassidy, of Irvine, Ayrshire, said: "He came in and pulled the towel away from her face, then said, 'I am sorry, she is too small, she is not viable. There is nothing I can do. I am not going to do anything.' He looked at her again and said he was sorry, then he just walked back out of the door."

"I wanted to hold her because I knew no one was coming back. I was shouting for help but the door stayed shut. All I could think was,

how could he walk away and leave her when she was moving around and trying her hardest?"

Mrs Cassidy, who has two other children, hopes to establish that parents should have the right to be consulted over whether their child is given lifesaving treatment, no matter how slim the chance of survival. She claims that Ayrshire Central Hospital mismanaged her pregnancy and did not take all reasonable precautions to prevent her baby's death. She had a history of miscarriage which did not appear to be taken into account.

Mrs Cassidy said that she demanded an inquiry because she knew it was possible for babies as small as Rebecca to survive. Although she miscarried at 21 weeks in 1992, her son Darren, now four, was born at 29 weeks at Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow. Unlike Rebecca, he was given the care he needed to survive, she said.

Rebecca was born on September 7 after a 25-week pregnancy. Her mother said that her colour was good, she was breathing and her fingers, legs and arms were mov-

ing. She lived for more than an hour cradled in her mother's arms.

Mrs Cassidy told the court that the baby looked so well that her husband John, 36, left the room to telephone relatives with the good news. Moments later their happiness was shattered by Dr Zidgali's diagnosis.

Mrs Cassidy said that next day the paediatrician told her that Rebecca's movements were muscle spasms and her breathing nothing but gasps. He said placing her in intensive care, linked to drips and needles, would have been painful and she might have become brain-damaged or disabled.

"He was admitting she could have had a chance of survival," Mrs Cassidy said. "I thought, it is not up to him to decide if I wish or do not wish to have a handicapped child. I could not say if she would have lived or not, but she never was given the chance."

Certificates issued by the hospital gave the time of birth and death as 2pm. "It was as if she had not lived at all, had not existed," Mrs Cassidy said. After she complained



John and Kirsty Cassidy. He had telephoned relatives with news of the birth when the doctor gave his "shattering" diagnosis

the hospital changed the time of death to 2.30pm.

Mrs Cassidy said that guidelines used throughout Britain were that babies born at more than 500 grammes should be put into intensive care — Rebecca was 570

grammes — and that doctors should do what parents requested.

Cross-examined by Susan Murray, representing North Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust, Mrs Cassidy denied that when Dr Zidgali examined Rebecca she was

already turning blue. She said that midwives continued to monitor the baby for an hour.

The doctor's notes recorded that Rebecca was "very premature, had fixed or fused eyes and was more like a 23-week gestation". Her

breathing was in gasps and her heart rate was ten beats a minute, compared with a normal 120-160 beats. He had concluded: "No resuscitation, not viable, not dynamic."

The case continues.

Greer attacks mutilation of precious books

By Jim McCue

GERMAINE GREER has accused the antiquarian book trade of barbarism by cutting up volumes to sell single pages as prints.

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association had commissioned her to write a preface for its catalogue for the London book fair, but Ms Greer's work was rejected after she attacked some members for selling "the wreckage of beautiful books in the shape of single leaves at inflated prices".

In the article, published in *The Times* today, the author and academic writes: "If it is barbarous to burn a book, it is hardly less barbarous to dismember it."

"Whenever I see a page torn from a psalter or a missal or worse still a herbal or a florilegium, and sold off as something to frame and hang on a wall, I vow to ring my Euro MP and ask him to bring a Bill in the European Parliament to outlaw any further breaking-up of antiquarian books for profit."

Joylon Hudson, of the association, said: "We wanted an article about the bicentenary of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley." The association represents 225 dealers in this country, including a small number who regularly break fine illustrated books for their plates, which can realise up to five or ten times as much when sold separately for wall decorations.

Few dealers admit to such mutilation, and the usual excuse given is that the book was already in an imperfect state. However, only a few



Greer: she accused the book trade of barbarism

months ago a reputable bookseller who had bought a copy of the 1632 Second Folio of Shakespeare missing only a few pages said if it did not sell readily he might break it "very reluctantly", to sell to visiting Americans.

The president of the association, Peter Miller of Spelman's bookshop in York, said that some dealers, including himself, now refuse to touch single prints unless they have been issued separately. "But Germaine Greer is looking at books from a purist, academic point of view, making out that every one is a unique piece of evidence. She doesn't ask whether there is one copy left or a thousand."

A spokesman for Pickering and Chatto in Pall Mall said somebody "needs to get on to a soapbox as she has, and scream about it" but it would not help solve the problem of incomplete books.

Germaine Greer, page 22

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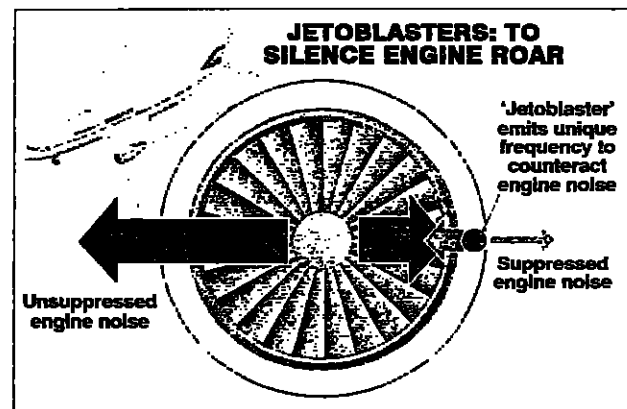
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Scientists use noise to silence jet engine

By Harvey Elliott, AIR CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF may be at hand for people living near busy airports after a breakthrough in the suppression of jet engine noise.

A sophisticated compressed-air "loudspeaker", nicknamed the jetoblaster, produces noise at similar frequencies to those in a jet engine, thus cancelling them out. The device is about to go on ground trials at Heathrow airport and, if successful, it is planned to develop a smaller unit to instal on an airborne jet. The trial is being run jointly by the airport operator BAA, British Airways and the Department of Trade.

Mike Birchall, Heathrow's head of noise policy, said

yesterday: "We are constantly looking at new ways to minimise the impact of aircraft noise. If successful, this technology has some exciting possibilities and we are pleased to invest in the research."

Although the theory on which the jetoblaster works, known as anti-noise, has been known for some time, the technology has not until now existed for the reduction of noise within the engine itself. A British company, Cambridge Concept, believes it has produced a mini-version of a system already successfully used to control general cabin noise by vibrating the air like a human voice.

Modern males are at more risk than women, but are less likely to do anything about it

Men behaving badly pose lethal risk to their health

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to launch a health campaign for men with the stark message that the modern male's lifestyle is killing him. Not only do men take greater risks in cars, on sports fields and at work, but they smoke and drink more than women and eat much more than in the past. Yet when they become ill they are less likely to go to the doctor.

The result is that men live an average of five years less than women and are more likely to die early from cancer and heart disease. They even suffer increasingly from breast cancer, the one part of the body where women are more prone to develop illness than men.

Men's macho attitude and lifestyle is behind their ill health, according to the Health Education Authority. "On the one hand men are more likely to become ill because of worries such as finding a role in life, employment, having somewhere to live, violence and personal relationships," the authority says in its *Healthy Man's Action Pack*. "On the other they feel that admitting to such worries by seeking medical help can be seen as a sign of weakness."

"Whether it's lumps in their genitals or the fact that they are feeling depressed, men are consistently less open when it

DEADLY LIFESTYLE

- Men live an average of five years less than women
- 50 per cent of the male population is overweight
- Two out of three have too much cholesterol in their blood
- About one in seven will have a mental health problem
- 92,000 men in England are killed by smoking each year - men who smoke are five times more likely to get cancer of the pancreas
- 60 per cent of the male population does not take enough physical activity to benefit their health
- 83,970 of the 154,842 who die of heart disease are men
- 24,290 men compared to 12,858 women, die of lung cancer
- Seven out of eight of the 3,100 suicides in England each year are men
- A fifth of all acute male admissions to hospital are alcohol associated



An early visit to the doctor can prevent a long stay in hospital. According to statistics from the Health Education Authority, half the male population is overweight, one in 18 is obese and two out of three have too much cholesterol in their blood - all factors which increase the risk of heart disease. The result is that 83,000 men die of coronary heart disease, compared with 70,000 women. Lung cancer kills more people than any other form of the disease and it is usually caused by smoking. Each year 24,000 men die of it, double the number of women.

Skin cancer, now the second most common kind, is more usual among men and is more fatal to them than to women. The authority says this is because men are less likely to use sunscreen, thinking it "cissy" and unnecessary. Of the 158,600 who die each year from all forms of cancer, 82,500 are men and 76,000 are women.

One in seven men will experience a mental health problem in their lives, and 2,700 of the 3,100 suicides in England are men.

Heavy drinking is also a male failing. A fifth of all acute male admissions to hospital are associated with alcohol and a third of male casualty patients have blood alcohol above the legal driving limit.

A glimpse of the lifestyle which leads to ill health among men emerges from a

comes to talking about what worries them and less likely to seek professional help. Instead of making positive health choices, men's thinking seems to be dominated by negative factors brought on by fear, isolation and apathy."

Plans for the campaign were drawn up last November after doctors met Health Department officials to review statistics showing that men's unhealthy habits were thwarting targets to improve the overall health of the nation. The first draft was rejected

because it failed to make the message sufficiently powerful.

The drive by the Health Department, to be launched within the next few months, will seek to make men feel less macho and more responsive to their aches and pains. It will redouble efforts to make them stop smoking and drink less.

Apart from reducing suffering, the campaign to make men healthier makes economic common sense. Because they tend to be iller when they eventually see their doctor, the cost of treating men is higher.



Under examination: men's macho attitudes make them less likely than women to visit their doctor when they are sick. When they finally do, their treatment costs more

survey conducted for the magazine *Men's Health*, published yesterday. This found that almost a half worry about their future often, a quarter hate their work and

three quarters said they would rather work than look after the home. A third of men over 35 drink alcohol every day, two out of five eat junk food at least three times a week and almost

two thirds think their weight is about right. National men's health week, sponsored by the magazine, runs until Sunday.

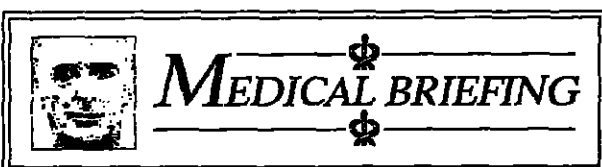
Leading article, page 23

Macho refusal to admit weakness is foolish and dangerous

THE campaign to make male health as much an issue as female health has to overcome the ingrained belief that it is a sign of weakness for a man to worry about it.

For centuries, men's work was not only arduous but dangerous: whether at sea, down the mines, in the foundries or on the battlefield, men died young and violently, and were expected to accept this as their lot in life.

There was also an underlying attitude that it was unmanly to complain when illness could be suffered in the comfort of the home, while contemporaries were being



Dr Thomas Stuttford

blown to bits in some foreign jungle.

Men now die early not so often because they are shot on a battlefield, but because they are riddled with tensions and anxieties in the office and face a future at work as uncertain as any suffered by a merce-

nary. In the past, the men who lived longest were the clergy, many of whom had sole command, enjoyed the parson's freehold, had the chance to live a settled family life and take exercise, and did not work long hours.

While mention of disease

and illness is still probably regarded as women's talk in the more traditional circles, this is changing. Just as it is seen increasingly as foolhardy, almost antisocial, for women not to have breast screening and cervical smears, so it must be seen as unreasonable and foolish for men not to have regular blood-pressure checks and electrocardiograms.

Men are to be encouraged to think of the diseases which specifically affect them and to consider, for instance, the damage which an idle, slothful life coupled with a high-fat diet will wreak on their car-

diovascular system. The less squeamish may also be persuaded to contemplate the possibility that they have small nests of malignant, or premalignant, cells in their prostate and be persuaded, from the age of 50 onwards, to have the Prostate Specific Antigen test to make sure that all is well.

But early detection of disease is not enough. Steps need to be taken to reduce the incidence. Obesity is as much associated with cancer of the prostate in men as it is with cancer of the breast in women. Men are also more likely to suffer cancer of the lung and

the bowels than women, as well as having specific malignancies, such as cancer of the testes. They have to learn to feel their testes to detect any change in size, shape or consistency, in the way that women pay attention to their breasts.

Both sexes should understand the importance of immediately reporting any untoward findings and any change in bodily function whether in swallowing, sudden increase in indigestion, loss of weight, unexplained cough or hoarseness, or alteration in bowel habit.

Obesity in men leads to an

increase in diabetes and arthritis as surely as it does in women. It is not possible to return to a Trollopean life of fixed employment, job security, time for limitless exercise and well-organised meals.

If they have the will-power, men can take exercise daily, avoid becoming overweight, cut their fat intake, increase dietary fibre and learn to enjoy green vegetables.

It would be comparatively easy for even the most weak-willed to follow a Mediterranean diet and to relish its wine - two to four glasses a day - fish, fruit and olive oil.

Advisers criticised over peat bog move

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by English Nature to downgrade protection at two internationally important peat bogs has angered environmentalists.

They say the Government's wildlife advisers in England are bowing to pressure from the compost industry and allowing what remains of Britain's ancient wild landscape to be devastated.

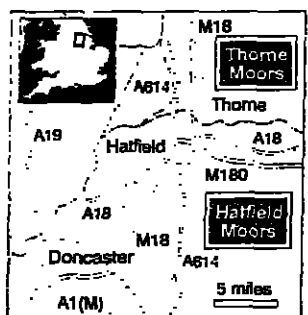
Levingtons, which produces peat-based compost from Thorne and Hatfield Moors, near Doncaster, has rights to remove peat predating their listings as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Richard Lindsay, one of

Britain's leading peat ecologists and a former scientist with the Government's wildlife advisers, said yesterday that the areas proposed for downgrading had been badly damaged by peat workings. However, there remained enough of the more than 4,000-year-old peat, including ancient pollen and other materials important for climate research, to justify their continued status as special sites.

"If they can get the listing for these areas downgraded then they will be able to claim that peat from these sites are not from these special sites."

Alan Shaw a spokesman for



Levingtons in Ipswich, which acquired the business from Fisons, confirmed the move. He said: "To my knowledge, all of the areas concerned are ones we are currently working. The moves are only formalising the fact that in our view they do not match the criteria for SSSI status."

In total, about 5 per cent of Thorne, a 2,000 hectare SSSI, and 50 per cent of Hatfield, a 1,300 hectare SSSI, are proposed for de-listing.

Antiques expert lied to police

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A LEADING antiques restorer accused of handling stolen Egyptian artefacts yesterday admitted lying to police. Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, 46, at first told detectives from Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Squad that an Egyptian figure in a photograph of him at work was a cheap imitation.

In fact it was a genuine antique thousands of years old, Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, told Knightsbridge Crown Court. Mr Dodgson claimed that Mr Tokeley-Parry "lied and lied" throughout police interviews after his arrest.

Mr Tokeley-Parry, of Winkleigh, Devon, told the jury he was forced to lie to protect his Egyptian supplier, Ali Ibrahim Farag. "I had no option given the situation I was in."

He denies three charges of handling stolen goods, including a bronze figure of the god Horus and false doors from the tombs of King Pepi and Heterka between June 1992 and December 1993. Earlier he told the court Egypt had no moral right to ban the export of artefacts because it did not have the expertise to preserve them. The trial continues.



Melanie Hall: missing

Melanie hunt ends

BY STEWART TENDLER

INVESTIGATIONS into the disappearance of Melanie Hall a year ago are to be closed for lack of clues, police said yesterday.

Detective Superintendent Steve Livings, of Avon and Somerset police, said there had been no sightings of Miss Hall, 25, after she left the floor of a Bath nightclub. It is feared that she is dead. A team of 60 officers has been reduced to six: if no new clues emerge soon, one will have responsibility for the file, which will remain open. Mr Livings and Miss Hall's parents yesterday appealed for information.

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Aitken says disputed Ritz bill was cock-up or set-up

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN told the High Court yesterday that he was either the "victim of a set-up or a cock-up" over his disputed bill at the Ritz hotel in Paris. The Conservative former Cabinet Minister denies attending a clandestine business meeting with prominent Arabs, who paid his hotel bill, in 1993.

Mr Aitken, 54, is suing *The Guardian* and Granada TV over claims that his business career and fortune depended on his connection with the Saudi Royal Family, and that he was involved in secret arms deals while a minister.

As the second week of his libel action began, he was shown an internal registration document from the hotel, which he denied seeing before. Dated September 17, 1993, it read: "Account with Ayas party, room 626-627 VIP. Method of payment: Account Ayas party."

The court has been told that Said Ayas, a Saudi businessman and aide to Prince Mohammed, son of the Saudi King, reserved a room for his old friend Mr Aitken. The



The Ritz hotel in Paris, where the Aitkens stayed in 1993

former MP, who lost his seat at Thanet South at the election, told Mr Justice Popplewell that his wife, Lolita, had paid the bill in cash.

But he said he had since failed to obtain another registration form, which under French law he would have signed, that would have made no mention of the Ayas account. "There is a small mystery here, which is that the Ritz, for some reason, have not produced the document."

"I have asked myself many times over the years whether I have been a victim of a set-up or a cock-up in the saga. I

incline towards the latter."

Charles Gray, QC, his counsel, had earlier asked the judge if he might subpoena the hotel owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, said to be a principal source for Granada and *The Guardian*, to produce the document. Mr Aitken said the Paris trip was a stopover en route for Switzerland where he and his wife were taking their daughter, Victoria, then 14, to a new school.

He said that he checked in at the Ritz at 10.30pm only to discover a message from Mr Ayas that his wife and daughter had already set off for

Switzerland. He said he produced a credit card but was told it was unnecessary.

He rejected a suggestion by George Carman, QC, for the defendants, that the credit card story was an invention, and said it was a mistake by the hotel that his bill was to go to Mr Ayas. Mr Aitken said his wife joined him in Paris two days later and he left her there to pay the bill in cash from \$3,000 (£1,800) she had drawn from the safe at the family home in Westminster.

Mr Aitken said he subsequently discovered that his wife had inadvertently paid only half the Ritz bill, the rest having been wrongly transposed at the hotel to the account of Abdul Rachman, Mr Ayas's nephew.

Mr Aitken then sent a cheque for £426 to Mr Rachman to cover the discrepancy. Only when *The Guardian* published its disputed article in April 1995, and Granada ran a *World in Action* programme called "Jonathan of Arabia", did he discover that the outstanding part had been paid by Prince Mohammed's treasurer.

The case continues.



Jonathan Aitken and his wife, Lolita, at the High Court. He admitted that she paid only half their hotel bill

Belgian mistress costs bank man 18 months in jail

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN ARCHITECT employed by the NatWest bank swindled £92,000 from his employers to pay for the upkeep of his wife and a Belgian mistress.

Wayne Simonds, 63, ran up enormous debts to keep the two women in stylish homes in Cheshire. Working with an accomplice, he claimed payment for bogus surveys and work that was never done.

While his unwitting wife, Sylvia, 55, stayed at home in Moulton, Simonds, who earned £37,500 a year as a regional architect for NatWest, flew to business meetings abroad with his Belgian mistress, who lived 15 miles away in Wilmslow.

The fraud was discovered in a routine investigation of his finances. Simonds lost his job, his mistress, Isabel Doyen, and had to move from Cheshire to Surrey and a £164-a-week job as a security guard. His wife, who had stood by him, works for a newspaper.

Judge Geake, sitting in Manchester Crown Court on Friday, jailed Simonds and his accomplice, Gary Sherman, of Ilford, east London, for 18 months each for conspiring to defraud NatWest. Both men admitted the offences.

Richard Marks, for the de-

fence, said that Simonds met Miss Doyen in the early 1980s in Belgium. She came to England to be with him and he soon found he was supporting her and his wife in separate homes and living well beyond his means.

"He became torn between two women, both of whom he loved," Mr Marks said. "It is difficult to imagine that this defendant with his background would have behaved in the way he did but for the emotional and financial pressure which his relationship with Miss Doyen brought."

He operated the fraud by contracting work from City and Hearis Communications, which was run by his friend Sherman. Anthony Russell, for the prosecution, told the court the company was a sham created to provide bogus invoices.

The judge told the men: "Both of you are plainly intelligent and resourceful men and men with your backgrounds do not normally resort to fraudulent activity without good reason. You were bound to be caught sooner or later."

Mr Marks said Simonds had ended his relationship with Miss Doyen three years ago.

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Mandelson takes centre stage in committee review

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S overhaul of the Government's policy-making machinery last night created a key role for Peter Mandelson, the campaign manager credited with masterminding Labour's election success.

The Prime Minister overlooked Mr Mandelson's non-Cabinet position to give him a place on 11 of the 20 ministerial committees, placing him at the heart of Cabinet discussion, even at a junior level, at discussions on important areas of Government policy makes him a pivotal player as the leadership tries to improve co-ordination of policy across departments.

Mr Blair also gave John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, a wide-ranging role at the head of four central committees, countering accusations that Mr Prescott would not have the influence of Michael Heseltine, his Tory opposite.

The list of Cabinet committees signals a number of changes of emphasis within Government, with the scrapping of four committees from John Major's premiership. Committees on nuclear defence policy, competitiveness and on the co-ordination and presentation of Government policies have been disbanded, together with the ministerial sub-committee on terrorism.

The Government's commitment to its devolution proposals is indicated by the creation of a new Scottish and Welsh devolution committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor.

Mr Blair's crusade for constitutional reform is also indicated in his chairmanship of a new constitutional reform committee to prepare changes to the House of Lords. Also new are a sub-committee on the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights in British law, chaired by Lord Irvine, and a ministerial group on food safety, to be chaired by David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Gordon Brown's influence at the centre of Government is emphasised by the decision to appoint him as chairman of the economic affairs committee, a post previously held by the Prime Minister. Mr Brown also chairs the public expenditure committee and the new welfare-to-work sub-committee charged with introducing Labour's employment policies.

Mr Prescott's chairmanship of four of the committees makes him an influential figure across the areas of the environment, home affairs, local government and London, where the Government will introduce a new authority.

Ann Taylor, the leader of the Commons, has been appointed chairman of the legislation committee and sub-committees on health strategy and drug abuse. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary who has special responsibility for women's issues, is chairman of the sub-committee on women's issues.

Mr Blair is chairing four of the committees, on constitutional reform policy, Northern Ireland, defence and overseas policy, and the intelligence services. His chairmanship of the Northern Ireland committee reaffirms his commitment to following Mr Major's lead in tackling the peace issue in the province.

The intelligence services committee, and the defence and overseas affairs committee, are traditionally headed by the Prime Minister.

Government figures made clear yesterday that issues dealt with under the four disbanded committees would be taken into the work of other established committees.

The new lists show little involvement in committee work by Cabinet members such as Clare Short, International Development Secretary, Gavin Strang, Transport Minister, and Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who are restricted to committees focusing on their respective departments.



Gordon Brown meeting Jacques Santer, left, European Commission President, and Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Monetary Affairs Commissioner

Europe boost for Brown's jobs crusade

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN secured support from France and other European countries yesterday for his jobs action programme to boost employment across the European Union.

The Chancellor presented his programme for labour market flexibility and minimal regulation at a meeting with EU finance ministers at Luxembourg. The ministers also agreed to

Britain's attempt to amend the employment chapter, underlining the need for flexibility. The subject is to be discussed at the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam.

Mr Brown said he agreed with France on the need to put employment at the heart of EU business but made clear that that was no excuse for "fiddling or fudging" the criteria for a single currency.

Although both centre-left governments have put employment and social issues at the top of the agenda.

Britain's market-friendly plans bear little resemblance to the more regulated Socialist proposals backed by Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, in an attempt to show their determination to change EU priorities, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Mr Brown's French counterpart, France praised his proposals as "wise and measured" while the Chancellor supported Paris's clear electoral commitment to massive job creation.

The action plan includes the need

for more flexible labour markets, welfare reform, and help for small and medium-sized businesses. Mr Brown has already made clear that it would be a key theme during Britain's presidency of the EU.

The Chancellor wants a new task force to build up small and medium-sized enterprises by helping them to cut bureaucracy and reduce costs on cross-border trade. He also wants progress to complete the single market by removing barriers to firms from one country investing in another.

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Labour proposes catch-all offence of corruption

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Government proposed yesterday to make MPs criminally liable for bribery and end the practice of parliamentary self-regulation. Under the measures, set out in a consultation paper, those found guilty of corruption could be jailed for seven years.

As part of the "cleaning-up politics" initiative, a parliamentary committee of MPs and peers was announced yesterday to examine the question of parliamentary privilege. Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, said yesterday that she did not believe this would infringe an MP's freedom of speech in Parliament.

The Government's tough approach to sleaze was evident in the tone throughout the paper issued yesterday by Mr Straw. There would be a single new catch-all offence of corruption. The presumption of corruption has hitherto been limited to gifts to anyone employed by the Crown, the Government or a public body, from a person holding or seeking a contract with them. The paper suggests that the presumption should apply to anyone where it could be shown that a person has received a gift "from someone who has an interest in the actions of the person in question".

The Government confirmed that for such a serious offence as corruption it was willing to contemplate a reversal of the traditional burden of proof in



Straw has issued consultation paper

criminal cases, whereby a person is considered innocent until proved guilty. The paper says: "This is a serious step to take and requires full justification." But the Government argues that in circumstances where people are expected to act impartially, they should order their affairs in such a way as to avoid any impression of corrupt activity.

The onus would be on the person to justify any questionable payment made to them. The paper makes clear that one of the proposals under discussion is that any board or senior managers from a British company who authorised the use of bribes abroad to win contracts would be liable to prosecution.

The Home Office has set a deadline of August 31 for any views or reaction to the proposals and the intention is to bring forward a Bill in the Queen's Speech in November next year.

Lord Nolan, who chairs the Committee on Standards on Public Life, yesterday formally welcomed the proposals and confirmed that he would recommend a new offence of misconduct in public life as part of his report on local government.

As the legislation would not be retrospective, it could not be used against former MPs against whom allegations were made in the past.

Blair sees danger of preaching to Europe

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Tony Blair is facing his first real political test at the Amsterdam summit this weekend - and there are still several major unresolved issues. His dilemma is how to demonstrate to other European countries that the British approach has changed and to the domestic audience that he can produce results.

His main impression so far from meeting other leaders is the difficulty of shifting the European agenda. He believes the Tory approach left zero goodwill towards Britain and argues that it is necessary now to offer an alternative vision of Europe, and not just an alternative vision of Britain. Hence, Gordon Brown's job creation plan at yesterday's meeting of European finance ministers. This is partly intended to show that Britain wants to make a success of European co-operation, "cutting with the grain of what people want", rather than just being negative over new proposals. Mr Brown won agreement that the new employment chapter would take account of the need for flexible labour markets and a trained and adaptable workforce. The key phrase, pushed recently by Mr Blair, is a "labour market responsive to economic change".

Mr Blair is wary of talk of him quickly taking up a leadership role. He is well aware of the danger of Britain being seen to preach and of pointing his finger at other countries. There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag, nor any more talk of Britain being part of a trio, with Germany

and France, in leading Europe. In particular, Mr Blair believes Britain should keep a low profile on monetary union since a strong public stand now could be counter-productive and would reduce Britain's influence in shaping whatever is agreed. He and Mr Brown will argue that their economic programme is necessary whether a single currency goes ahead or not, and is, indeed, essential if any monetary union is to succeed.

His priority for Amsterdam is to secure a legal basis

‘There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag’

for maintaining Britain's border controls which would withstand challenge in the European Court of Justice. This has been resisted by other countries, including the Dutch presidency, and is the main obstacle to agreement. This is linked with a desire to end the British opt-outs. Mr Blair believes "an opt-out mentality" reduces British influence. Instead, what Mr Blair would like is a system where Britain could join any new EU initiative when we want, rather than come in only if other countries agree. This is to ensure that any new

flexibility clause does not discriminate against those on the outside.

Other British aims are to ensure that police and the criminal law are kept as matters of intergovernmental co-operation, rather than brought within the remit of the Community and the European Court of Justice. Britain, with the support of several smaller states, also wants defence to remain primarily a matter for Nato, so the Western European Union should not be subordinated to the European Union. The national veto will also remain on foreign policy decisions, though there may be qualified majority voting on implementation, subject to objection by members. And Britain wants definite progress to be clear on quota hopping on fishing.

So Britain is not there yet. Mr Blair wants to avoid brinkmanship or raising the temperature too much at this stage. He regards the rows over fishing and BSE as object lessons in how not to conduct foreign policy. Mr Blair sees some signs of movement. But as John Major pointed out yesterday in probably his farewell Commons speech as Leader of the Opposition, the question is what will the balance be in any bargaining. What will Mr Blair have to accept or concede at the summit in return for his main priorities? He naturally believes there will be a deal, but knows how important it will be in shaping both his domestic and international standing.

PETER RIDDELL

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Tory leadership: endorsements are counted up as MPs prepare to vote

How contenders stand on day of reckoning

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rival camps in the Tory leadership contest have spent the past 24 hours trying to win round the 57 MPs who have failed to declare their support for any of the five candidates.

William Hague, who is expected to finish second tonight, enters the race with the most public endorsements. Kenneth Clarke, who is expected to top the poll, follows with 20 public endorsements but the level of his support is much higher.

Michael Howard, whose supporters claim he has edged ahead of Peter Lilley, has the fewest declarations of support.

A total of 107 MPs, including the candidates, have gone public. It leaves 57 to determine the outcome of the first ballot. Some, however, have not been telling the truth: the total number of MPs who have committed support privately takes the total to 176, whereas the number of Tory MPs is 164.

The Candidates:

John Redwood is the most uncompromising Eurosceptic. He is the only one to say "never" to a single currency. His most notable supporters include John Townend, chairman of rightwing 92 group, and Lord Tebbit.

Mr Redwood is standing on a populist Conservative platform and will seek to restore voters' trust in the party's stewardship of the health service by opposing the closure of popular local hospitals and major institutions such as St Bart's. Local education authorities will be ordered to direct more cash to the classroom.

He is standing as the only "clean pair of hands", being the one candidate who was not on the bridge when the ship went down on May 1. He will apologise for broken promises on taxation, VAT on fuel, and negative equity.

Michael Howard, former Home Secretary, seemed dead in the water after Ann Widdecombe's assault on his integrity. He refuses to list total number of endorsements.

Mr Howard has fought back as the heavyweight candidate on the right. He would seek to unite the party round his opposition in principle to a single currency because the present proposition is un-



THE SUPPORTERS: WHO'S PROMISED TO BACK WHOM IN THE FIRST BALLOT

John Redwood: proposer, Iain Duncan Smith; seconder, Angela Browning.

Supporters: Julian Brazier, Bill Cash, Howard Flight, Andrew Hunter, Oliver Letwin, Julian Lewis, Andrew Robathan, Lawrence Robertson, Marlon Roe, Sir Teddy Taylor, John Townend, David Wilshire, John Wilkinson, Nicholas Winterton.

Total public endorsements: 17. Expects 30 votes.

Kenneth Clarke: proposer, Michael Heseltine; seconder, Sir Norman Fowler.

Supporters: David Curry, Quentin Davies, Damian Green, John Gummer, Sir Edward Heath, Douglas Hogg, Tom King, Michael Jack, John MacGregor, Sir David Mace, Michael Mates, Sir Peter Lloyd, Keith Simpson, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris, Bob Walter, Shaun Woodward, Sir George Young.

Total declared: 20. Expects 45.

Michael Howard: proposer, Sir Michael Spicer; seconder, Tim Collins.

Supporters: Graham Brady, James Cran, David Faber, Liam Fox, David Lidington, Francis Maude, Desmond Swayne, John Taylor, Simon Burns, Christopher Chope, Sir Richard Body, Andrew Lansley and David Maclean.

Total: 15. Expects: 34.

William Hague: proposer, Sir Peter Tapsell; seconder, David Heathcoat-Amory. Supporters: Michael Ancram, James Arbuthnot, David Atkinson, Peter Bottomley, Ian Bruce, James Clappison, Dr Michael Clark, Geoffrey Clifton Brown, Stephen Day, Alan Duncan, Nigel Evans, Roger Gale, Cheryl Gillan, James Gray, Nick Hawkins, Julie Kirkbride, Eleanor Laing, Tim Loughton, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Humfrey Malins, John Maples, Malcolm Moss, Archie Norman, Richard Page, James Paice, David Prior, Jonathan Sayeed, David Tredinnick, Tim Yeo.

Total declared: 32. Expects: 39.

Peter Lilley: proposer, Gillian Shephard; seconder, Sir Patrick Cormack.

Supporters: Eric Forth, David Willets, David Amess, John Bercow, Sir Michael Colvin, Nick Gibb, Philip Hammond, Gerald Howarth, Bernard Jenkin, Robert Key, Piers Merchant, Richard Spring, Robert Syms, Andrew Tyrie, John Whittingdale, Nigel Waterson.

Total: 18. Expects: 28.

workable. He demonstrated loyalty to John Major and would expect the same in return. His supporters argue his strongest point is that he is a formidable parliamentarian who could match Tony Blair at the dispatch box. Mr Howard's supporters believe he is the only candidate who

can beat Ken Clarke in the final round.

Peter Lilley is fighting as the unity candidate. Staunch Thatcherites such as Gerald Howarth are on his campaign team, as are Sir Tim Bell and Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare.

As social security secretary,

Mr Lilley won respect for handling of welfare reform. He promises a thorough review of policy. On Europe, he rejects endless theological debate over the single currency. He is committed to rebuilding mass membership of the Tory Party.

Kenneth Clarke, a powerful

debater in the Commons, is said by his supporters to be the man Labour fears most.

He has popular appeal in the country and among party activists, and is depicted as the man most capable of appealing to the lost Tory voters.

On the single currency he maintains that events have

justified his wait-and-see stance. He now supports a delay in Britain's entry.

Of all the candidates he has the most extensive experience of government, having held office since 1979. He has a record as an innovative minister, having introduced GP fundholding, and is seen as

one of the most successful post-war Chancellors.

William Hague, is the only candidate for those MPs who support the idea that the Tories must skip a generation to match the youthful appeal of Tony Blair.

He has support from across the party with Tim Yeo on the left, Michael Ancram in the centre and David Heathcoat-Amory and Lord Parkinson on the Eurosceptic right. He has staked his claim on appealing to the party outside Westminster. Mr Hague promises a Blair-style revolution: a two or three-year policy review with radical reform of the party structure. He aims to double the membership in two years and put agents in 375 target seats by next year.

On Europe he is opposed in principle to a single currency. He would make opposition to monetary union a cornerstone of the party's manifesto.

Time for a repeat of the drama in room 14

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

COMMITTEE ROOM 14 in the Commons has been the scene of some of the most dramatic episodes in modern-day politics. Tory MPs were called there to hear the result of the first ballot for the leadership in 1990 when Margaret Thatcher failed to win outright. It split the end of her premiership.

Today a far smaller number of Conservative MPs — the 164 survivors

of Labour's landslide — will file in to vote for the candidate they want to lead the party during its first period of Opposition for 18 years.

The executive of the 1922 Committee will meet at 9.30am. Thirty minutes later the MPs will assemble to hear Sir Archibald Hamilton, the 1922 chairman, give the results of the consultation process carried out among party activists. They do not get a vote this time, but next time they almost certainly will.

The MPs will have seven hours in

which to make their choice. Watched by a team of scrutineers, including representatives from each of the five camps, they will find a quiet corner, fill in their ballot paper and depart.

Voting ends at 5pm. MPs will return to the committee room at about 5.25pm to hear the result. No one expects today's vote to be conclusive. To succeed the winner would need a simple majority — at least 83 — and a 15 per cent lead over the nearest challenger. If there is no outright majority there will be a second ballot

next Tuesday, for which nominations will close at noon on Thursday. In theory new contenders could enter the race. It was at this point that John Major and Douglas Hurd joined in 1990. This time it seems more likely that one or two will drop out.

Next Tuesday a candidate securing a straight majority would win. The 15 per cent additional requirement disappears. But again it may not be conclusive. If so the candidates finishing in first and second place will go forward to a run-off two days later.

Downey favours new look at MPs' interests

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY has expressed support for an inquiry into whether there should be curbs on MPs' outside interests, even if this means they should have higher salaries.

In an interview in *Counsel*, the magazine of the Bar Council, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards says: "I certainly think the argument [that MPs should be paid more] is more balanced than I did some time ago. I was completely persuaded that MPs were able to have outside interests because they acquired outside experience that helped in the House."

But he goes on: "I now think there is quite a strong case for further consideration as to whether or not we would be better off with professional politicians without outside interests."

Sir Gordon also says that "it has been frustrating" that he was unable to publish his completed report on the cash-for-questions allegations against MPs before Parliament was prorogued, before the general election. "It would have been more satisfactory had it been possible to see the report published beforehand," he says.

Sir Gordon is implementing measures to help those who entered the Commons at the general election to stick to the rules and avoid the allegations of political "sleaze" that beset the last Parliament. A new Register of MPs' Interests is being compiled, and training and induction sessions are being held for newly elected MPs, to run alongside the advice Sir Gordon dispenses when approached.

He said: "There is a huge intake of new Members and I will attempt to offer them advice in time to prevent Members from stepping across the line which might lead to complaints."

IN PARLIAMENT

Foreign Office questions: Education (Schools) Bill; remaining stages; backbench debate on road improvements to A484, in the Lords; debate on EU report on consumer guarantees; combating drug abuse in Scotland.

Letters, page 23

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Whalers aim to ease hunt ban

FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

JAPAN and Norway are trying to "slip through unnoticed" amendments relaxing the hunting of whales while the world's biggest wildlife protection organisation is distracted by arguments over elephant conservation, according to Greenpeace, the environmental lobby group.

The allegation was levelled yesterday at the two countries as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) began its meeting in Zimbabwe's capital.

Tokyo and Oslo have listed five proposals to remove the minke whale, grey whale and Bryde's whale from the Cites Appendix One, which regards the species as threatened with extinction and bans all international trade, and to list them under a lesser category of restricted trade.

Isabel McCrae, head of Greenpeace's delegation here, said the proposals were "a strategic attempt to manoeuvre the Cites parties into undermining the commercial whaling moratorium".

Japan's tradition of hunting whales has made the country the villain of the conference for most European and American animal welfare groups. The country is also named in a proposal by Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana as the recipient for exports of tusks from their stockpiles.

Despite Greenpeace's warning, the African elephant is set



Norwegians haul a five-tonne minke whale, caught off their country's northern coast, onto their vessel

again to overshadow proceedings as the three southern African countries try to win a partial lifting of the ban on the ivory trade.

But organisers of the 139-member United Nations body are irritated at the huge media exposure devoted to an animal that Cites believes is not endangered. Nobutoshi Akao, the chairman of the Cites standing committee, urged delegates to base their decisions

"not on emotion but on scientific decisions". Izgrev Topkov, its secretary-general, offered journalists a prize for writing about a threatened species not yet publicised, a remark seen as a plea to limit coverage of the elephant.

Cites, which lists nearly 40,000 species of mammal, reptile, bird, fish, insect and plant as threatened by international trading, has seen its meetings turn into a huge

attraction for media and wildlife charities. An unprecedented 300 foreign journalists are covering the meeting. Massi tribesmen, dressed in suits, are lobbying against a relaxation of the ivory trade, while a conference folder, made from elephant dung paper, pushes the opposite view.

The conference's appetite for documentation has grown to four million documents since the last meeting in 1994. Cites

officials say the voluminous German proposal to restrict trading of the beluga sturgeon in the Caspian Sea has exhausted its translation budget.

Cuba has proposed that it be allowed to sell its hawksbill turtles, prized for their shells, to Japan. Traffic acknowledges that Havana has imposed "very comprehensive" controls on fishing and trading of the hawksbill, classified as "critically endangered".

Britain seeks EU code on arms exports

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
AND EDWARD YATES
IN JAMAICA

BRITAIN wants to persuade its European partners to sign a new code of conduct on arms exports to prevent weapons from reaching regimes that might use them for internal repression.

While Britain is currently ahead of France in the league table of global arms exporters, Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday that the Government proposed to raise its

standards in selling arms abroad and wanted the European Union to follow suit.

Mr Lloyd's statement came after Bishop Carlos Belo of East Timor, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, urged Britain to restrict the arms trade. British weapons are reported to have been used in the conflict in East Timor, which has suffered from insurgency since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese territory in 1975.

Before meeting Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, last night, the bishop said in a lecture sponsored by the Cafod Catholic aid agency:

"Please, I beg you, restrict still further the conditions under which this trade is permitted. Do not sustain any longer a conflict which, without these sales, could never have been pursued in the first place, nor for so long."

However, Mr Lloyd said that, despite a desire to tighten up on arms exports, the Government supported a strong British defence industry.

"We are one of the major arms exporters in the world but that status carries with it a responsibility, an obligation, to ensure that the arms trade is properly regulated," he said

during a seminar on controlling the arms trade, which was organised by Saferworld and the British American Security Information Council, two independent research organisations.

Mr Lloyd took up the theme first enunciated by Mr Cook in his policy mission statement in which he underlined the importance of human rights and the need to ensure that arms were not sold to regimes which had a record of abuse.

"We are all aware of concerns that some defence equipment exported from the UK in the past might have been used

for internal repression," Mr Lloyd said. One of the most controversial arms sales from Britain was the export of Hawk jets to Indonesia, which has been accused of rights abuses in East Timor. Bishop Belo's visit to London comes at a time of increasing violence there.

Mr Lloyd said the Government would press for greater disclosure of information on arms exports and transfers by all countries, and would try to strengthen the United Nations register of conventional weapons by including the sale of small arms.

Secret Israeli plan aims for 100,000 more settler houses

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

DETAILS of a secret contingency plan by Israel's Housing Ministry to construct another 100,000 homes for Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were published yesterday.

Yediot Aharanot, the Tel Aviv paper which obtained a copy of the secret document entitled *The Territories - Overall Planning*, said that the outline was recently submitted to Meir Porush, the Deputy Housing Minister, who "instructed that the plan be shelved for the time being and be used as a contingency plan in case the peace process is stopped".

The outlined construction would more than triple the number of existing homes, estimated at 40,000, in the existing 144 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the Palestinians are hoping to create an independent state. The present number of Jewish settlers is between 144,000 and 160,000.

Last night, Moshe Eilat, the

Housing Ministry spokesman, confirmed the plan's existence but claimed that it would remain dormant as long as peace talks with the Palestinians continued. "If the peace talks blow up, we can discuss it, but as long as there are negotiations — and we hope there will be — there is no reason to discuss such things," he said.

The leak coincided with confirmation that Israeli-Palestinian talks, which resumed on Sunday in Egypt for the first time in nearly three months, will continue under Egyptian diplomatic auspices in Israel on Thursday.

Osama el-Baz, the senior Egyptian envoy, is struggling to arrange a summit between President Mubarak of Egypt, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. The Palestinians have been demanding a halt to the construction of the settlement of Har Homa in Jerusalem as the condition of their participation.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Turkish hijackers give up

Cologne: The hijack of an Air Malta airliner bound for Istanbul with 51 people on board ended peacefully yesterday when two Turks surrendered at Cologne airport, releasing their hostages unharmed.

One of the hijackers, with what turned out to be fake explosives strapped to his chest, had demanded the release of the Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy for trying to assassinate the Pope in 1981. (Reuters)

Drug gang deal

Bogotá: Colombia's three most powerful drug cartels have joined forces to halt legislation that would allow extradition of Colombian criminals, a move that the United States has repeatedly urged. The head of the national police reported. A fresh wave of widespread drug-related violence is expected following the deal between the leading drug mafias. (AFP)

Punjab killing

Lahore: A former Pakistani provincial minister, Iqbal Gurkhi, a candidate for Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in a by-election for the Punjab provincial assembly, was killed in Baghbanpura by gunmen after a car chase. Police said: "It is not yet clear if the murder was an act of terrorism or motivated by some enmity." (AFP)

Chechnya law

Moscow: President Maskhadov, the leader of the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya, has imposed Sharia (Islamic law) in an effort to restore order on his lawless new nation (Richard Beeston writes). The move follows a spate of kidnappings and bombings in the northern Caucasus.

Airliner stolen

Moscow: Two men are on the run after stealing a 120-seat jet airliner from a Russian airport in the southern Urals and flying it 545 miles across the border to the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. The jet was taken using fake documents and later found at a deserted airfield. (AP)

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30TH ANNIVERSARY

Kohl plans huge property sale to fill budget hole

HELMUT KOHL'S Government, beset with rumours of resignation and imminent collapse, is ready to embark on the biggest property sale since the war in an attempt to prop up the budget.

The sale of 110,000 flats and of government stakes in building societies that hold sway over another 300,000 is expected to be clinched with one purchaser — the *Handelsbank* business daily tipped to raise DM5 billion (£1.8 billion). That, with the sale of DM10 billion of Telekom shares and new savings, might just be enough to close the holes in this year's budget.

But even if the gamble works, it

will not help Germany to come closer to meeting the Maastricht public deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Next year's budget, although not critical for entry to economic and monetary union, is already putting new strains on the Government.

According to some reports, Bonn has been considering selling its property to a British or American investment bank, but the most likely customer is regarded as the Veba energy concern, which has its own property subsidiary. One sale has already been agreed with Veba this year: a 58 per cent government stake in a company with about 39,000 flats was sold to it.

The notional price of DM5 billion is low for the amount of property on offer: that is because of the dilapidated nature of many of the state holdings. The buildings include disused airport hangars, marshalling yards, Russian barracks in eastern Germany and polluted training grounds. Repair, renewal and clean-up costs would depress the value. So too would the long-standing rental contracts which would have to be honoured by the buyer. Even so, the scope of the proposed property deal is huge.

The sense that the Government is on the cusp of disaster was reinforced yesterday by reports, promptly denied, that the Chancellor threatened to resign no fewer than four times last week during negotiations with his coalition partners. Such threats are not new and are not usually taken very seriously: they are regarded as shots across the bows of the small Free Democratic Party (FDP), which is refusing to accept any tax rises.

The FDP, hovering only slightly above the 5 per cent minimum needed for parliamentary representation, has the most to lose from an early election. Nonetheless, to issue four ultimatums in a week would suggest, if true, that Herr Kohl is no longer in command of the situation.

He is certainly finding it difficult to hold the three horses of the Bonn

coalition together. The Bavarian Christian Social Union is calling more and more loudly for a delayed start to the euro: the FDP is refusing tax rises and has cut off the only reliable way of meeting monetary union targets; and even Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) are complaining about the incompetent management of public finances.

The Chancellor seemed to acknowledge the problem in a private speech to CDU deputies last week: "I know what it is like. You go back to your constituency parties and they ask you just one thing — what is this crap you are getting up to in Bonn?" Herr Kohl has been counting

on compromise within the coalition, an economic recovery next year, a job-creation drive and a Cabinet reshuffle — removing Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, from the firing line — after the summer break. These calculations are beginning to look complacent. Political advisers are now urging the Chancellor to consider the previously unthinkable: a grand coalition with the Social Democrats after a divorce from the FDP.

Such a coalition, in theory, could agree on increases in petrol tax and value-added tax. But it would be of only limited appeal to the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which scents the Government's weakness.

European borders blocked by lorry drivers

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUNDREDS of British lorry drivers were caught up in a European day of action yesterday by their continental counterparts demanding better pay and conditions, with traffic disrupted from Germany to Portugal.

French drivers, often co-operating with European neighbours, parked lorries across the Spanish, Italian, German, Belgian and Swiss borders. Spanish drivers blocked three crossings with France and one with Portugal as part of the push to secure new European Union rules limiting working hours and standardising benefits.

The French federation of road haulage companies, representing employers, denounced what it called an illegal "eurostrike". It said the authorities had refused pleas to intervene. "Once again, we've seen that the illegal use of force is the best way of pushing through demands."

Most blockages in the 24-hour stoppage were in France. British hauliers were prevented from boarding ferries at Cherbourg in Normandy and St Malo in Brittany. French drivers were also carrying out Operation Escargot — travelling at a snail's pace to hold up foreign lorries.

Near Strasbourg in eastern France, French and German drivers set up a barrier on a bridge over the Rhine. More than 35 main roads, including the A10 motorway outside Paris, were also blocked, and at the Mont Blanc tunnel, linking France and Italy, about 500 foreign lorries were



Lorries choke the Franco-Swiss border near Basle yesterday as part of the Europe-wide day of action by drivers' unions who want a maximum working week of 48 hours

held up. French lorry drivers were allowing their compatriots through, but were stopping all foreign drivers.

However, one British driver, Mick Rhodes, broke through the blockade in his 40-ton lorry after being held up for more than 12 hours. Mr Rhodes, 34, from Bradford, said: "I inched my way near to the front of the queue and

when the barrier came up to let some French lorries through, I just put my foot down and took a run at it. They tried to put the barrier down again, but I wasn't stopping!"

John Daure, the managing director of Bradford-based Sanita Shipping, for whom Mr Rhodes works, said: "The French are holding everyone

to ransom — again. It's crazy. Fortunately, this dispute is due to last 24 hours only."

The most serious recent French stoppage happened last November, when many British lorry drivers were stuck for more than ten days, while another blockade hitting many companies' profits also happened earlier this year.

The unions claim that drivers often spend 70 hours a week on the road, and want the EU to impose a 48-hour maximum working week. Militant French drivers seized the opportunity to renew claims dating from their 12-day strike at the end of last year when they set up dozens of roadblocks and delayed British lorries at most cross-

Channel ports. French unions said that they were striking for a "harmonisation" of working conditions across Europe. They also demanded the implementation of a French government decree designed to ensure their members are paid during rest time.

The French haulage employers said the decree was "totally unrealistic" and

amounted to "collective suicide". The decree was signed at the end of the November strike, which left British road haulage companies claiming £5 million compensation from the French authorities because of their failure to lift the road blocks. Claims from other European operators, including German and Spanish, total £85 million.

David's lips to give museum kiss of life

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE normally moribund world of Italian art museums and galleries has been startled by an imaginative scheme by the Palazzo Pitti museum in Florence to market a range of 500 craftsman-made items inspired by some of the greatest Renaissance masterpieces.

Despite critics' horrified cries of "vulgar commercialisation", from the end of this month visitors to the gallery will be able to examine and handle the velvet cap worn by Raphael in his self-portrait; the pearl pendant that adorns the neck of Maddalena Strozzi of the Florentine banking family, in Raphael's painting of her; and a dinner service copied from plates and dishes set out on the table in Pontormo's *The Supper at Emmaus*.

One of the most sought-after, and oddest, items is likely to be a marble reproduction of the sensual lips of



Reproductions of Raphael's cap and the lips of Michelangelo's David will go on sale next year

Michelangelo's *David*. Art lovers will not be able to buy the objects until next year, when the rules governing the management of Italy's state-run art museums are due to be revolutionised. A law drafted in 1993 but still not implemented provides for the liberalisation of museum regulations, allowing gallery managers to open restaurants, cafés, bookshops, souvenir

shops and other profit-making enterprises. At present, as tourists are often dismayed to discover, such facilities are either limited or absent in Italy.

Walter Veltroni, the former Communist Culture Minister who is also Deputy Prime Minister, has said: "All you can get in many museums is a badly produced postcard." He has encouraged private invest-

ment in the under-resourced museum sector, one of Italy's main earners of tourist revenues, and has vowed to push the delayed law through parliament by next year at the latest.

Officials in Florence said that prices for the Renaissance collectors' items had not been set. The Palazzo Pitti, which by the nearby Uffizi Gallery contains one of the world's greatest collections of Renaissance art, hopes that sales will bring in extra annual income of nearly £100 million, according to *Corriere della Sera*.

Other items to be made available include crystal perfume-bottles inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's *Annunciation*; white silk shoes of the kind worn by the figure of Spring in Botticelli's *Primavera*; and a range of napkins and tablecloths based on the floral background behind his *Venus*, and the glass goblet that is held up by Caravaggio's *Bacchus*.

Airstrip under scrutiny for the bounty

Wellington: Pitcairn Island is debating joining the aviation age by building an airstrip. Chris Shute, the Deputy Governor, said yesterday. Pitcairn, 1,340 miles southeast of Tahiti, will be Britain's last island in the Pacific region when Hong Kong is returned to China at the end of the month.

Mr Shute, who is also First Secretary at the British High Commission in Wellington, has just returned from a visit to the 50 people who remain on Pitcairn. He said that an airstrip would allow the island to attract affluent tourists.

The islanders are descendants of some of the crew who in 1789 mutinied against Captain Bligh on board *HMS Bounty*. Eight mutineers settled on the island with a group of Polynesian women after visiting Tahiti. (AFP)

The Rock to ask for 'Guernsey' status

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

GIBRALTAR'S Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, will ask for a new "Guernsey-like status" for the colony at a meeting next month with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Caruana, who was in New York to address the United Nations decolonisation committee, said the formal proposal would be made to Mr Cook next month. The aim was "to strengthen and modernise Gibraltar's historic ties to the United Kingdom, as well as to give to the people of Gibraltar their right to self-determination".

Although full details have yet to be worked out, the change would spell an end to Gibraltar's 284-year legal status as a British Crown Colony. Responsibility for the Rock's affairs would shift from the Foreign Office to the Home

Office, and the Governor's post would be abolished.

Mr Caruana said: "Our aim is to take Gibraltar into a new era and to end the anachronism of its present situation. We wish to move from being a British colony to being a British dependency, in the manner of Guernsey."

According to Mr Caruana, both Douglas Hurd and Malcolm Rifkind, the former Conservative Foreign Secretaries, had welcomed the idea when put to them informally.

Yesterday Mr Caruana revealed that the Labour Government had also reacted "very positively". He said: "We expect them to treat it as an important component of their general package of constitutional reforms."

Leading article, page 23

M Hue's call was echoed by Louis Vianet, head of the Communist-led General Works Confederation, which has the ability to paralyse France as in December 1995. Yesterday, he suggested that he was prepared to back wage demands with strike action.

Although M Jospin has diluted his campaign pledge to increase salaries, he is likely to accept Communist demands for a higher minimum wage. The markets worry how much that rise will be.

The Communist presence at the centre of public life was underlined when Jean-Claude Gaysot, 52, the Transport Minister, said he wanted to halt reform of the SNCF railway network which lost Fr15.2 billion last year, and the troubled state airline, Air France, which is seeking privatisation.

Hue: wants a 10 per cent minimum wage increase

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30TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERS? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

US prepares to tackle 'super-killer' germ

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN health authorities are holding emergency meetings this week to consider how to meet the threat of a new strain of the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium, found to be resistant even to vancomycin, the powerful antibiotic of last resort.

Although the strain has not yet been detected in America, its recent appearance in a four-month-old boy in Japan has caused considerable alarm in the United States.

S. aureus, "golden staph", is potentially the most serious of all infections acquired in hospital. Before antibiotics, *S. aureus* was one of the most deadly germs. It still kills about 70,000 American patients a year. It is most commonly spread between patients from skin to skin, usually by hands of hospital staff.

The excessive use of antibiotics appears to have made bacteria more resistant than ever, particularly in intensive care units. Dr Alexander Tomasz, an antibiotics expert at New York's Rockefeller University, said: "The inten-

sive care unit is the most infectious place in the world when it comes to antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

Studies have found that 39.4 per cent of "golden staph", which causes blood infections and pneumonia, is resistant in intensive care

units to methicillin, the standard antibiotic, compared with 31.2 per cent elsewhere in hospitals; 79.7 per cent of *S. epidermidis* bacteria, which cause skin infections, are resistant to methicillin in intensive care units.

Antibiotics kill bacteria by

demolishing their protective cell wall. To fight back, germs have developed a gamut of tricks, including ways to make their cell walls impenetrable. This was what Japanese doctors found recently, at Tokyo's Juntendo University. Keiichi Hiramatsu, a bacteriologist, reported a new strain of "golden staph" with walls so thick that even vancomycin, the formidable "super-antibiotic", failed to penetrate them.

Dr Hiramatsu was able to overcome the strain only by using arbekacin, an antibiotic which is not licensed for use in Western countries. He found that the new strain's cells produced wall-building proteins much faster than ordinary cells, thus equipping them to withstand and survive an antibiotic battering.

□ London: The Public Health Laboratory Service says that vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* has not yet been detected in Britain. "If it is confirmed, it is a serious development," a spokesman said, "but there are other drugs that can treat it."

Bacteria prove fatal to the old and infirm

BY DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THE *S. aureus* bacterium is responsible for many wound infections in hospital, as well as the boils, carbuncles and abscesses of general practice. *Staphylococci* may also cause bronchitis, pneumonia, osteomyelitis, gastroenteritis and can even attack the sac around the heart, causing a fatal endocarditis.

Usually in healthy patients *staphylococcal* infection is localised to a boil or abscess and the patient recovers once this has been drained. If the

infection is severe antibiotics are needed.

Infections resistant to antibiotics are particularly liable to cause fatalities in patients debilitated by age or some other condition or drug that has suppressed their natural immune system. In hospitals every effort is made to prevent infection from spreading by strict barrier nursing of the patient and by frequent checks on all the staff to make certain that they have not become carriers.



Sitaram Kesri, of the Congress Party in India, in an ebullient mood last night as his party members cast their vote for the party president. It is only the third time in 50 years that such an election has been held. In the past,

Indian party picks leader

the party leader was simply anointed by the most popular — and therefore most

powerful — Congress members. But this year the federal Election Commission ordered all parties to hold organisational elections. Mr Kesri is expected to win when results are announced on Thursday. (AP)

Lawyers vie to pick tobacco trial jury

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JURY selection in the "tobacco trial of the century", in which a former air stewardess is suing the makers of Marlboro cigarettes for \$5 billion (£3 billion), is proving to be a sociologists' dream-come-true.

Lawyers for Norma Broin, the plaintiff, are battling their counterparts from the tobacco industry in an attempt to secure a jury most amenable to their particular case. In their ideal sociological "photo-fit", the former have expressed a preference for mothers who have been to college. The latter have plumped for the white American male.

Mrs Broin argues that years of passive smoking in flight cabins gave her a virulent form of lung cancer, while the tobacco industry ripostes by saying that there is no link between cancer and the inhalation of other people's smoke. Her lawyer, Stanley Rosenblatt, believes that since college-educated mothers are likely to have a "better understanding of the dangers of smoking" as well as a distaste for large corporations, their case would be served better by such "types" on the jury.

Lawyers for Philip Morris, however, want a majority of white men on the jury, preferably specimens with little formal education. A spokesman said: "Such men are likely to have an instinctive understanding of the key issues here. They are not viscerally against freedom, personal choice, profits and a good cigarette."

Not surprisingly, jury selection is proving arduous for Robert Kaye, the Dade County circuit judge, who is conducting the trial. So far, he has pleased the tobacco industry by dismissing a number of nurses from the jurors' pool, as they might be expected to have an "anti-tobacco bias". As if to compensate for the disappointment in the Broin camp, he also dismissed a white man in his thirties who described the lawsuit as "ridiculous".

The judge, a former smoker, has also ordered that the courthouse and jury room will have their "No Smoking" signs taken down once the trial commences. He said: "I don't want those signs up there. They're coming down because they could be prejudicial."

Judge Kaye added, however, that jurors, and those attending the trial, would be informed verbally that smoking was not permitted.

150 killed in China landslide

Beijing: Four villages in China's southwestern Sichuan province were swept away by a landslide, leaving at least 150 people dead, a local official said yesterday.

"We no longer have any hope of recovering survivors," said Gao Mingjie, a Meigu county official. He added that three people had been confirmed dead and 147 were missing after the landslide struck in the early hours of last Thursday.

The torrent of mud and rocks turned parts of the four villages in the mountainous Yangshanzhou region into a lake of mud, he said. Eighty-four houses were destroyed and 223 damaged, he added. Those left homeless had been moved to shelters in neighbouring areas. (AP)

□ Delhi: An estimated 50 people were killed yesterday in a series of landslides in the Indian Himalayan state of Sikkim, the Press Trust of India said. Pawan Kumar Chamling, the state's Chief Minister, said the death toll was likely to rise because an unknown number of people were feared buried. (Reuters)

Kennedy says sorry for broken marriage

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JOSEPH KENNEDY, the son of the late Robert Kennedy, has apologised publicly to his former wife for failing to make their marriage work.

Speaking at a Democratic Party rally in Salem, Massachusetts, Mr Kennedy, who is battling to secure his party's nomination for the Governor's post next year, also apologised on behalf of his brother, Michael, who has been accused of sex with an under-age babysitter.

More than 2,000 astonished delegates were told by Mr Kennedy: "I had a marriage that didn't work out. I can't tell you, and I can't put into words, how sorry I am about that. I said things that I wish I'd never said, and I did things I wish I had never done. I've told you, I've told Sheila [his former wife], I've told anyone who cared, how sorry I am."

The theatrical outpouring of regret comes only weeks after publication of a book by Sheila Rauch Kennedy, his former wife, castigating his efforts to be granted an annulment by the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr Kennedy, a congressman, said of his brother: "On the matter of [Michael], I am so very sorry, so very sorry, for what has happened to the babysitter's family. I extend to them the deepest apology that I can say. I love my brother, and I will stand with my brother."

Michael Kennedy has been accused by Maria Verwood, now 19, of having had an affair with her when she was 14 years old. The daughter of a family close to the Kennedy clan, she had then been working as a babysitter with Michael's children.

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Paz Zamora: turned back on revolution

Bolivia's old foes make up to govern

By Gabriella Gamini
SOUTH AMERICA
CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER right-wing military dictator yesterday shook hands with his one-time foe, a former left-wing guerrilla movement activist, to form the unlikely coalition which will make up Bolivia's next Government.

General Hugo Banzer Suárez, 71, who leads a small, right-wing party and won a majority in the general election, struck an alliance with Jaime Paz Zamora, the former president and leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, during a "national reconciliation" ceremony in La Paz yesterday. "The old rightwinger and the former revolutionary have decided to get together in an effort to unite the chaotic and poverty-stricken country," said a Western diplomat.

Señor Paz Zamora was part of an underground left-wing movement opposing General Banzer's military regime. He has denounced the general several times in the past for ordering his assassination. But the former revolutionary, who says the Latin American Left has to follow European socialists, has unexpectedly decided to join forces with the general because "he has also reformed his ways".

General Banzer, who took power by force in Bolivia 26 years ago and whose seven years in office were marked by brutal repression, has made a comeback via the ballot box. He won a 25 per cent majority from the country's 3.2 million electorate, capturing the "protest vote" against the liberal reforms of the outgoing President Sánchez de Lozada.

Both Señor Sánchez de Lozada and Señor Paz Zamora won 16 per cent of the vote.

During General Banzer's dictatorship between 1971 and 1978, an estimated 200 people were killed for opposing his junta.

Brutality is law in aftermath of Sierra Leone coup

A THIEF had the misfortune to be caught by one of Freetown's hastily improvised anti-looting squads yesterday. Life is cheap in Sierra Leone's capital, and the city's remaining populace seemed to express little beyond passing curiosity when the man was shot dead on the spot, and only mild surprise when his body had its hands, feet and legs cut off. The dismembered ensemble was left on display in the street as a warning.

The new Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) authorities, a tense alliance of regular army officers and former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, is trying to bring the capital under control after the coup two weeks ago. Its task has not been aided by the continuing flux of people abandoning their homes in anticipation of a Nigerian attack or rebels entering the city after years in the bush. The fact that all Freetown's prisoners were released in the turmoil added to their fears.

"Most of these men are dead now," a major said of the liberated prisoners. "Anyone we stop in uniform who cannot tell us his army number, we shoot straight away as they are robbers impersonating soldiers. Some are still hiding in the cemeteries, however."

But many of the worst crimes are being committed by regular troops: it seems that the former RUF rebels are more disciplined than the army. In one incident in Freetown, 15 regular soldiers were burnt to death in a vegetable oil after their vehicle lost control and crashed into power lines in Savage Square



Life is cheap in Freetown, where many crimes are committed by regular troops, Anthony Loyd reports

while they were being chased by an anti-looting squad. The falling cables then killed by electric shock the survivors of the crash, drenched as they were in their haul of oil.

The civilians who have chosen to stay express mixed feelings towards the coup leaders. Most voice suspicion about the new military junta, yet are united in their hope

of civil cynicism towards the latest situation. One verse reads:

*At the blast of rockets
Presidents did flee!
Onward People's Army
On to victory!
Corporal Foday Sankoh
Told you to unite,
Raping, looting, burning
All throughout the night!*

Everyone shares the opinion that a military intervention by Nigeria to restore the ousted President Kabbah will lead to a greater conflict. The AFRC fighters are extremely well armed and determined to hold the capital at all costs.

"We are prepared to negotiate, but we are not, under any circumstances, prepared to give Freetown to the Nigerian forces," Commander Leather Boots, one of the coup leaders, said yesterday.

A contemporary of the coup leader, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, Commander Leather Boots was a man of imposing stature. He tapped his walking stick periodically on the toe caps of a magnificent pair of cowboy boots. By Freetown's standards his name was conservative. Two other commanders are called Mosquito and Superman.

"We outnumber and outgun the Nigerians," he said. "We hold all the high ground. We will not attack them pre-

6 All this will be dust in days if Nigeria tries anything. Things don't look good

that the coup may be the only chance to finish the war with the RUF: merely a bitter stage in the road to democracy.

A sense of humour seems to be as strongly entwined as barbarity in Sierra Leone's national psyche and is usually present in any political discourse. Monday's edition of *For di People*, the capital's leading independent newspaper, published a new version of *Onward Christian Soldiers* for its readers, giving a clear indication of the degree



A man armed with a machinegun patrols the tense streets of Freetown yesterday

emptively, but if they attack us, they shall be very sorry. And at this moment all we are receiving is reports of Nigerian reinforcements moving into Sierra Leone. This is not, and never shall be, a Nigerian colony." Behind him a group

of his men clustered on a pick-up truck. Armed with every type of infantry hardware, each man wore wraparound sunglasses. A small monkey chattered away on the vehicle's roof, perched on top of a mounted grenade launcher.

"You see all this around you?" Commander Leather Boots asked, pointing at the capital's coastal sprawl. "This will be dust within days if Nigeria tries anything with us. And at this moment things are not looking good."

Claim by rebels for money to step down

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

SIERRA LEONE'S coup leaders have asked for cash in return for standing down, a member of the deposed Government said yesterday.

James Jonah, the country's Ambassador at the United Nations, said the request for a "monetary payment" of an undisclosed amount was made in negotiations on the restoration of the elected President Kabbah, overthrown in a military coup last month.

The internationally recognised Government believes the coup, launched by low-ranking army officers headed by Major Johnny Paul Koromah, has been "hijacked" by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which signed a peace agreement with President Kabbah last November after a six-year guerrilla war.

The military junta allowed RUF fighters into the capital, Freetown, to repel a Nigerian attack and, in the words of one diplomat, the "RUF is now calling the shots".

Mr Jonah said President Kabbah had accepted the initial British-Nigerian-US initiative to end the rebellion by accepting the coup leaders' demands to redress army grievances and granting them amnesty. But the RUF apparently vetoed the plan.

He said President Kabbah would now co-operate with Ghana's effort to negotiate his return to power, because he feared heavy casualties if Nigeria and other West African countries launched a military assault. President Kabbah has emphasised, however, that he cannot accept a settlement that does not restore the Government.

Congo fighting traps Oxfam staff

By Stephen Farrell

A BRITISH aid worker trapped in Congo Brazzaville told yesterday how Western charity staff became caught up in a coup attempt, with fighting between government and rebel soldiers raging around his hotel for days.

Richard Bartlett, 27, a Cambridge graduate and former Royal Engineer, was among four Oxfam engineers sent to Brazzaville to set up water supplies for refugees fleeing Kinshasa, capital of the neighbouring former Zaïre, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Instead, they found themselves in the middle of Congo Brazzaville's own civil war after a militia seized the centre of the capital in an attempted coup against President Lisouba at the end of last week.

Mr Bartlett, whose botanical great-grandfather, Sir John Kirk, explored Central Africa with Dr David Livingstone in the 1860s, is trapped

in the Cosmos Hotel with Jaap Vermuelen, a Dutch Oxfam worker. Two other staff, Phil Attwell, 56, an experienced aid worker from Bootle, Merseyside, and Inamel Haque, a Bangladeshi, are in the charity's office, nearer the fighting.

Speaking by satellite telephone yesterday, Mr Bartlett said the city had been cut in half by rival forces. "It is only a matter of time before the hotel gets hit. We are desper-

ately hoping French or American troops will be able to cross the front lines to reach us."

He said gunmen with AK47s came into the hotel on Sunday to tell them that they were under rebel control. "They took our four-wheel drive vehicles so we have no transport."

He said his group were on the beach when fighting began on Thursday. They had been trying to organise water sup-

French fly out foreigners

Paris: French troops yesterday began evacuating foreign nationals from heavy fighting in Brazzaville. Flying 450 people out of Congo Brazzaville to neighbouring Gabon (Adam Sage writes). The move was ordered by Paris after reports that hotels had been hit by mortar shells.

Witnesses said bodies of fighters and civilians littered the streets after the latest

outbreak of violence early yesterday. The fighting, between President Lisouba's forces and followers of Denis Sassou Nguesso, his Marxist predecessor, flared in the run-up to June 27 elections.

The first of 300 French troops sent as reinforcements for the 400-strong contingent already in Brazzaville arrived from their Central African Republic base yesterday.

plies for refugees crossing the River Congo north of the city. The intense fighting forced them to retreat to the hotel.

Mr Bartlett said the United Nations tried to get them out on a convoy on Thursday but the lorry sent to get them was stolen at gunpoint.

Ian Bray, of Oxfam, said all four had worked for the charity for only a few weeks. "It is ironic that, until a few days ago, Brazzaville was the safe city for people fleeing Kinshasa. Now the situation is reversed. The best policy is for them to keep their heads down."

Mr Bartlett's father John, a consultant neurologist at King's College Hospital, London, said he and his wife, Cilla, were proud of their eldest son. "We are just hoping he gets out of this safely."

□ Kinshasa: A shell fired during fighting in Congo Brazzaville landed in central Kinshasa. No one is believed to have been hurt. (Reuter)

Traditional bakers declare war on 'bagel vandals'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK



Sugary confections are passed off as bagels, purists say

NEW YORK'S bagel purists, who yield little to wine snobs in the art of being sniffy, are rumbling their way to full-blown revolt.

Tired of seeing their art demeaned by "fake bagels" made with such ingredients as apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, walnuts, raisins and vanilla, the city's traditional bagelmakers are fighting back. There is talk of a nationwide campaign for "real bagels".

Jim Robertson, the owner of Bagel Oasis in the Queen's district, describes the latest bagel-come-lately ("Dutch Apple Bundt-Cake Streusel Bagel" sold by a sandwich chain)

in the following glowering terms: "That's not a bagel; that's an abomination." Mr Robertson, and other traditional bagel makers, are appalled by the spongy, sugary confections that "bagel vandals" seek to pass off for the real thing.

Traditionalists insist that *un wais* bagel should have a slightly sour taste, and be made by boiling the sourdough before baking. "These new bagels don't even have a crust," cries Kim Phongtankeul, the Thailand-born owner of Hot Bialys, another New York bagel legend. Mr Phongtankeul blames the de-

cline on a new menace called the rack oven. He says: "Those ovens steam bagels rather than boil them. It saves time, but believe me, it makes a lousy bagel."

The oven was introduced in the early 1980s. Yuppies queued to get their fix, and the rack oven, which can steam and bake enormous batches, was seized upon by profit-hungry bakers. The result is a puffy, over-sized product, with little charm and chewiness. Walt Schieroth, of the American Institute of Baking, says: "Today's bagels are the size of Texas. What happened to the standards here?"

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Let's do lunch

Jason Cowley charts how things have changed for the generation of women for whom the midday meal is a vital part of the day

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Ladies who lunch was once a byword for twinsets and pearls, for worthy charity gatherings in the country, for tombolas and raffles. The frivolous Eighties changed all that. Doing lunch became as much about being seen at the right places and keeping up with gossip as about eating out. For many affluent young women, it was also a prelude to shopping: something to do between going to the gym and that night's cocktail party.

Joe's Cafe in Draycott Avenue, off Brompton Cross, was a particular favourite because it was handily placed opposite Joseph, the style emporium of the Eighties.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was an influential social lunch-er, although her haunt was San Lorenzo, the Knightsbridge trattoria whose Italian proprietor, Mara Berni, became something of a mother-confessor to the Princess. Like most lunching ladies, the Princess never ate much: her favourite dish being a salad washed down with a glass of Perrier.

"The ladies who lunch never eat very much," says a manager at Joe's. 90 per cent of whose lunchtime customers are women. "Salads, risotto, some fish and perhaps pasta are what the ladies eat. Our alcohol sales are low at lunchtime, too. The ladies drink lots of sparkling mineral water."

Eve Pollard, Eighties power-luncher and former Editor of the then *Sunday Express*, says: "In the Eighties I remember ladies used to go to San Lorenzo in the little street where Diana was often seen. They would go to lunch after, say, having been to the gym or the hairdresser and as a prelude to doing the shopping. It was all about fun and frivolity."

The recession made eating out at lunchtime unfashionable, and when women began lunching again, they mostly

did so for business reasons. Pollard says: "Now women lunchers are more work-oriented, although, of course, social lunching goes on. There is certainly less food and alcohol consumed in the Nineties. Everyone is watching their calories. The ladies who regularly lunch are easy to spot because they all wear designer suits."

Paul Abes, of Christoph's restaurant in Chelsea, draws a distinction between those who lunch for professional reasons (the majority) and those for social ones (a vocal, ostentatious minority). "Of course, lunching for fun was an Eighties thing, but it's making a comeback," he says. "You

cheer parties. But now everyone is so busy and there are so many new restaurants opening that they would rather eat out than entertain at home."

"There is still a thriving lunching circuit in the country, where ladies go to each other's homes," says Lewis. "But in the city most women lunch for business reasons."

She says the most influential lunchers include: Carla Powell, wife of Baroness Thatcher's former adviser, Sir Charles; Kimberley Fortier, publisher of *The Spectator*, who is a regular at the Groucho Club in Soho; Gail Rebus, chairman and chief executive of Random House and wife of Labour's cam-

paign strategist Philip Gould; Barbara Amiel, columnist and wife of Conrad Black; Josephine Hart, novelist and wife of Maurice Saatchi; fashion star Isabella Blow and Isabelle Goldsmith. They tend to congregate at the same places: The Ivy, The Square in Bruton Street, any Conran concept eatery, Le

Caprice, Arlington Street, Joe's, Harry's Bar, and "anywhere with an SW1 or SW5 postcode". Dress is fashionably smart — dark, tailored suits, long skirts with discreet slits, fitted jackets.

Among the most enthusiastic of the new generation of younger lunchers are the It-girls such as Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, Tamara Beckwith, Letitia Cash and Normandie Keith. When they are in town, they lunch at Daphne's and The Collection, both in South Kensington, or at Joe's and Vingt-Quatre on the Fulham Road. Their clothes are cut to reveal their year-long suntans.

Over in west London, the Portobello Princesses — Tania Kinderley, Jade Jagger, Kate Chancellor — reject what novelist Kinderley calls that "whole precious Daphne's lunching thing", preferring to lunch in more inclusive places where they can wear jeans, Doc Martens and tight white T-shirts — 192 in Kensington Park Road, Notting Hill, is their haunt. Patsy Kensit held her hen night there: other regulars include Mariella Frostrup, Stella McCartney and Meg Matthews, wife of Oasis frontman Noel Gallagher.

Tania Kinderley used to be a regular there but she now prefers the more discreet surroundings of Osteria Basilico, a bohemian Italian. "Everyone's quite normal there," she says. "It's handily located opposite 192 and you can watch all the trendies making a fool of themselves as they nibble salads and sip chardonnay. I used to be into all that lunching thing but I got tired of going to a place precisely because you know you're going to be looked at. I prefer to lunch with friends and wear an ordinary pair of trousers without worrying if they're this season's thing or not."



Ladies who lunch: but most count the calories



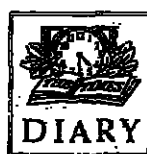
Recipe for success: 20 years ago women lunched almost exclusively in their homes, hosting small parties, but now everyone is so busy they prefer to eat out

LORD HANSON
Industrialist.
Goes to: the Connaught, Savoy Grill, Santini's.
Eats: Dover sole off the bone, sea bass.
Drinks: nothing.
Lunches with: Frank Johnson, Bill Cash, Baroness Thatcher.

SIR RICHARD GREENBURY
Chairman of Marks & Spencer.
Goes to: M&S boardroom in Baker Street HQ.
Eats: the best from the M&S range, smoked fish followed by poached salmon. No chicken Kiev here.
Drinks: water.
Service: colossal oil paintings and liveried butlers mark this boardroom.

ELLIOT BERNARD
Property developer.
Goes to: Claridge's, where he has his own regular table.
Eats: tycoon's favourite of fish off the bone.
Drinks: glass of champagne.
Lunches with: Gerald Ronson, David Mellor.
Does not need to sign his bill. He is such a regular that he can just get up and leave.

ROCCO FORTE
Hotelier.
Goes to: The Savoy Grill.
Eats: Dover sole off the bone, puddings.
Drinks: champagne.
Lunches with: Max Hastings, Editor of the *Evening Standard*, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Television.



The talk is of country sports, brisk and businesslike, for her as long as it takes to squeeze out all the gossip.

SIR CHARLES and LADY POWELL
Margaret Thatcher's former Downing Street aide-turned-businessman and his wife, a society hostess.



Ingham: steamed puddings.
Go to: Lady P goes to Kaspia, or at her house in Bayswater. Sir Charles prefers The Ritz.
Eat: blinis for her, haddock Monte Carlo for him.
Drink: champagne, mineral water.
Lunch with: Peter Mandelson, Sir James Goldsmith, Paul Johnson, Baroness Thatcher.
How long: for him lunch is

The lunch bunch: The final part of our guide to the top 50 of Britain's most accomplished lunchers

MATTHEW EVANS
Head of Faber & Faber.
Goes to: The Ivy, where he has his own table.
Lunches with: highbrow literati such as Tom Stoppard, Julian Barnes and Salman Rushdie.

ED VICTOR
Literary agent.
Goes to: The Ivy, the Garrick Club.
Lunches with: celebrity writers, Joan Collins, Andrew Neil, Joan Self.

SIR BERNARD INGHAM
Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary.
Goes to: Beuty's, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, Manzi's.
Eats: Dover sole, Waleska. Steamed puddings. Potatoes, but no other vegetables.
Drinks: nothing.
Likes to stretch out on a banquet and hold forth to guests.

NIGEL DEMPSTER
Gossip columnist, and
DAI LLEWELLYN
Nightclub greeter.
Go to: Dan's, Monkeys, Leonardo's, Fox Trot Oscar.
When: every Friday

Eat: full three courses.
Drink: bucketloads, starting with champagne, moving through to liqueurs.
Lunch with: Michael Corry-Reid, Johnny Kidd, ageing Chelsea bad boys.
Hangover: unbearable. The



Lady Powell: likes blinis

lunches have been known to carry on right through until Saturday night.

SHAUN WOODWARD
Wealthy new Tory MP for Witney.
Goes to: Le Caprice, Savoy Grill.
Eats: steaks, salads.
Drinks: champagne.

Smokes: an ostentatiously large cigar

THE VENERABLE GEORGE AUSTIN
Archdeacon of York.
Goes to: Simpson's-in-the-Strand.
Eats: like a starving vicar. Starters, main course from the trolley and treacle puddings to finish.
Drinks: red wine, liqueurs.
Loves: being rewarded for all his controversial statements by taking a slap-up lunch, which lasts well into the afternoon.

ANTHONY LEJEUNE
Historian of London's gentlemen's clubs.
Goes to: knows his way round every club table in London from the Beefsteak to White's. Eats: whatever grey meat in gravy is dished up.
Drinks: sherry, red wine.
Lunches with: the members' table.
Between courses: can outpoint any club bore with his store of anecdotes from clubland.

SIR EDWARD HEATH
MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup.
Goes to: the Berkeley Hotel, Buck's, the Carlton Club, the Chinese Embassy.
Eats: trifle.
Drinks: vintage wines.
Lunches with: William Waldegrave, sycophants. Known to invite journalists for a meal, have a polite lunch, then flay them over coffee.

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RAC



Martin Jacques likes Japanese food; Eve Pollard prefers the Oxo Tower with bosom pals



Rocco Forte, left, likes to talk of country sports over Dover sole and champagne at The Savoy Grill, while Patsy Kensit, Liam Gallagher and Stella McCartney prefer giggling and cigarettes with their beer at the Portobello Hotel

PATSY KENSIT
Liam Gallagher's wife.
MEG MATTHEWS
Noel Gallagher's wife.
MARIELLA FROSTRUP
Go to: 192, The Portobello Hotel, The Fifth Floor at Harvey Nichols.
Eat: not much in between the ciggies and giggling.
Drink: spritzers, anything with vodka, bottled beers.
Like to: head off afterwards to designer shops down Sloane Street or the vintage clothes emporia of Notting Hill Gate.

MARTIN JACQUES
Former Editor of *Marxism Today*, *Guardian* columnist.
Goes to: Union Café in Marylebone, Orso, Stephen Bull's Bistro, Japanese restaurants.
Eats: salmon and manchego cheese with quince jelly. Fish.
Drinks: Sapporo beer, then wine.
Lunches with: Alan Rusbridger, Will Hutton, John Birn, Christopher Haskins of Northern Foods.

DOM ANTHONY SUTCH
Headmaster of Downside School.

Goes to: the Travellers' Club.
Eats: prodigiously.
Drinks: red wine and liqueurs such as Fernet Branca.
Lunches with: the Duke of Norfolk, Monsignor Gilbey, smart Roman Catholic par-

Hanson: sole or sea bass
ents of the boys in his charge.

DONALD SINDEN
Actor.
Goes to: Garrick Club, stalwart of the members' table.

Eats: a bread roll accompanied by a packet of cigarettes.
Drinks: black coffee, brandy and soda.
Manner: conspiratorial. Never stops to draw breath.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES
Goes to: Chelsea Harbour Club, La Faniglia, San Lorenzo, Launceston Place, also a favourite of Lord Snowdon.
Eats: pasta, salads.
Drinks: water.
Lunches with: used to be with girlfriends, now prospective suitors such as Christopher Whalley and Gulu Lalvani.

JAY JOPLING
Art dealer, and
DAMIEN HIRST
Go to: greasy spoons round Cork Street, Quo Vadis in Soho.
Eat: food comes second to smoking and drinking.
Drink: vodka with tonic or fruit juice.
Lunch with: Sam Taylor-Wood, Dave Stewart, Jarvis Cocker.

EVE POLLARD
Agony aunt for the *Sunday Mirror*.
Goes to: Oxo Tower, Quaglin's, Pont de la Tour.
Eats: colossal salads, shellfish.
Drinks: champagne and balloon-sized glasses of white wine.
Lunches with: bosom pals from her editing days at the *Sunday Express*, Charles Lewington, former Tory director of communications, Peter McKay.

JOHN WALSH
Former Literary Editor of *The Independent*, presenter of Radio 4's *Books and Company*.
Goes to: The Ivy, Chili's in Canary Wharf.
Eats: Bangers and mash, burritos.
Drinks: Red wine, vodka.
Lunches with: a constant stream of young women in publishing.
Model for: Ivo Spence, the heavy-drinking hack in *Vicious Circle*, Amanda Craig's

satire on literary London.

HYWEL WILLIAMS
Aide to John Redwood.
Goes to: The Beefsteak Club, Bois d'ale.
Eats: sprats, oysters, beef.
Drinks: gallons of the "Argentine red infuriator".
Lunches with: the Tory Right.

PETER MANDELSON
Minister without Portfolio.
Goes to: The Avenue, the Tate Gallery Restaurant.
Eats: guinea fowl, Caesar salad without the croutons.
Drinks: mineral water, hot water with a slice of lemon.
In stark contrast to: the old Labour lot who held court in The Gay Hussar in Soho.

ION TREWIN
Publisher of Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
Goes to: The Garrick, The Ivy, Manzi's in Leicester Street.
Drinks: wine, mineral water.



Frostrup: bottled beers
freshly squeezed orange juice.
Eats: fish, "any good quality nursery food".
Lunches with: Alan Clark, MP, Edna O'Brien, agents, publishers.
How long: "The big publishing lunch is a thing of the past. An hour and a half."
Tips: lunches divide into those where you want to be seen, and those where you don't. Has one place near his office where no one else goes and uses it for secret meetings.

PHOTOSALES

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IN THE ARTS

Sex, earthy and unearthly:
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Arts, pages 20, 21

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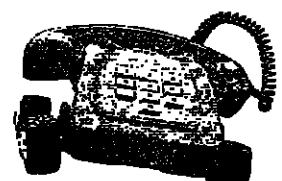
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■ VISUAL ART 1

Body shapes: at the Whitechapel Gallery the sculptor Cathy de Monchaux explores sensuality



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while a series of Indian miniatures celebrates the fleshly conquests of the god Krishna

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

Who has made the best recording of Monteverdi's great Vespers of 1610?



■ MUSIC 2

Rattle conducts an electrifying performance of the *Eroica* Symphony with period instruments

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Whitechapel Gallery's twin celebration of sex earthy and unearthly; plus galleries

Pain and joy of carnal desires

While summer temperatures soar, erotic delight is given free rein inside the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Upstairs, the amorous antics of the Hindu god Krishna fill the walls with rampant sensuality while, downstairs, the assured young British sculptor Cathy de Monchaux is even less inhibited in her sumptuous exploration of the body.

Before long, though, the pleasure principle in de Monchaux's work turns out to be offset by pain. Far from celebrating the body with straightforward abandon, she is continually aware of hedonism's darker side. *Dangerous Fragility*, a two-part sculpture flanking the entrance to her exhibition, reveals this dualism with theatrical flair. On one side, the convoluted structure hanging on the wall seems to open outwards, revealing forms suggestive of female genitalia. The skill with which de Monchaux handles leather, simulating the folds and wrinkles of human flesh, is formidable.

She has a virtuoso ability to manipulate her materials: pliable leather is set against the harshness of brass and the taut ribbons which give the sculpture so much tension. Rather than exposing itself in a languorous manner, the pink flesh appears to be cruelly pinioned. Vulnerability prevails, but in the other half of *Dangerous Fragility* the defencelessness vanishes. Now the structure seems to have snapped shut. The voluptuous, fetishistic allure of the first half is sacrificed, to be replaced by a far colder and more wary alternative.

In the largest work, an installation constructed as a room within the gallery, thoughts of a burial chamber come to mind. Its emotive title, *Never forget the power of tears*, reinforces the feeling of grief in a space where forms are laid out ceremoniously, like corpses on the floor. Sensuality still lurks here, above all in the chalk-dusted leather segments where pudendal flesh is simulated with uncanny, seductive fidelity. But the enticing body parts appear to be trapped in the floor, and they are juxtaposed with large, lead-covered boxes held down with rusted steel clasps.

Elaboration plays no part in these austere rectangles, which suggest how much of a debt de Monchaux may owe to the Minimalist tradition. She is certainly capable of working with rigorous severity, and usually knows when to curb her instinctive love of excess. Around the walls of this

‘The amorous antics of the Hindu god Krishna fill the walls with sensuality’

sanctum, though, a nine-part sculpture called *Trust your sanity to no one* releases a more fanciful side of her imagination. Small forms resembling sea-creatures or lizards are stuck, limper-like, in corners and above doorways. Their playful scattering comes as a relief after the sobriety of the floor-piece, proving that mournfulness can be seasoned with wit in de Monchaux's art.

Humour reaches a cabaret level in a quirky work where frogs, 13 of each sex, are strung out like a chorus line of demented performers. Even here, though, their gaping mouths look strangled. Violence and damage are never far away, and they take on the significance of a secular crucifixion in a

weird, repellent work titled *I thought you said you loved me*. At the top, rusted metallic hands which might have strayed from a science-fiction fantasy are clamped on to tangled ropes of leather. They twist downwards, plaited and yet split every three feet, like intestines bursting from a wound. Visceral and blood-flecked, they contrast with the robotic impersonality of the claws holding them to the wall. Nothing remotely seductive can be found in this anguished spillage. It is a cri de coeur, suggesting that de Monchaux's art is, at heart, more autobiographical than may at first be apparent.

No such mortification blights the Krishna show upstairs. Selected with an eye for vivacity by Balraj Khanna, more than 120 miniatures from the 16th to the 19th centuries chart the tireless, perpetually diverting adventures of this ever-popular divinity. The eighth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, Krishna was irrepressible from childhood: in one 18th-century Jaipur picture the blue-coloured boy with a green halo is caught stealing butter from a milk churn.

Miniature painting may have been constrained by rules, but they did nothing to deflate the high spirits displayed in so many of the

images. Decorative virtuosity abounds, sometimes with an élan that made me wonder how Asian art may have influenced de Monchaux. But they are always subservient to the storytelling purpose of the painting, and Krishna's escapades guarantee that the narrative energy never falters.

He is capable of brutal retribution when circumstances demand. The outside demon Putana finds herself killed by the deceptively small god when he sucks her breast dry. He is equally capable, in an adult guise, of grabbing the evil Kansa by the hair and bringing a blade down on his exposed neck. All the same, Krishna displays mercy as well, forgiving the submissive Kalyani with commendable generosity.

But he is in no danger of becoming a saintly bore. Sexuality and spirituality are fused in Hinduism, to an extent unimaginable in Christianity. So Krishna's carnal appetites never seem incompatible with his divine status. He goes about his love-making as inventively as Don Juan. One of the most beguiling miniatures shows him perched in a tree, staring with lustful satisfaction at the clothes slung further along the same branch. He has stolen them from the cowgirls bathing in the lotus-filled water below, and their blend of dismay and excitement is subtly defined by the artist's command of sinuous contours.

Krishna's resourcefulness enables him to satisfy all the cowgirls. In a hallucinatory picture, he multiplies himself and makes love to six of them at the same time. But there is nothing rapacious about his cunning manoeuvres. He embraces his conquests gently, as if determined not to abuse his powers too crudely. That is why his limitless appetite for amorous conquests does not seem offensive. We smile at Krishna's exploits, and are charmed even more when he performs miraculous feats without discernible effort. Standing at the centre of a forest fire, he saves the animals, birds and humans by swallowing the flames. He is also capable of indulging a holiday mood, dancing in the rain with a flower in his hand or squirting young women with coloured water.

Krishna is a god for all seasons, and plenty of the artists in this enchanting show include superb passages of landscape observed at different times of day. A blood-red sunset, glimpsed above a dark



Krishna's combat with the god Indra: all it seems, in a day's work for a very busy Hindu deity

mass of densely foliated trees, lends unexpected tension to a lyrical scene where Krishna is serenaded by trumpet-blowing attendants. Above all, he appears in an abundance of different settings with the devoted Radha. The two lovers gaze at each other, suspended in rapture on a swing. They walk in a grove as beguiling as Paradise, and embrace in court-

yards where cowgirls gather to watch them with appraising eyes. In order to give the show a contemporary dimension, several artists have been invited to add work of their own. The most spectacular, by Permindar Kaur, covers the entire final wall with brilliantly coloured figures made of polar fleece. In many cases, their actions are ambiguous: Kaur

seems fascinated by the ease with which an embrace can be transformed into a struggle. In this respect, Kaur's willingness to explore the interplay between pleasure and suffering brings her closer to the perturbation explored by de Monchaux on the floor below.

Both shows are at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7878) until July 27

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE difficulty with an artist such as Celso Lagar (1891-1966), whose life story is extraordinary and in many respects tragic, is to separate the life from the art. Sympathy is understandable, but would we be interested in the work if we were not interested in the man?

The horrors of Lagar's life all crowded together in its last ten years. He had come to Paris from Spain when he was 20, rapidly fallen in with the sculptor Hortense Begue, who was to be his companion and wife for some 45 years, had shared a studio with Modigliani and become a close friend of Picasso, and everything went swimmingly. Then, in 1956, Begue died, there was a disastrous fire at his studio, and he was maliciously accused of arson. The distracted artist was carried off to the local lunatic asylum and left there, too proud to appeal for help. When the London dealer Andras Kalman discovered his work everyone thought he was dead, but Kalman managed to trace Lagar and eventually he was released.

Fortunately his art, now on show at the Crane Kalman Gallery, commands attention in its own right. There are traces of Modigliani's influence, and of Blue Period Picasso, but mostly it is his own, and surprisingly Spanish, especially in the circus pictures he painted obsessively, which belong to the dark world of Goya or Solana rather than to the Ecole de Paris. Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566) until July 26

Michael Leonard is a Classical rather than a Neo-Classical artist. The distinction needs to be insisted on, since contemporary Neo-Classicism is almost always involved with pastiche, camp, and the tongue at least slightly in the cheek. Leonard, on the contrary, is intensely serious and single-minded in all he paints. Not necessarily in all he draws, in that his "transpositions", portraying friends in styles which he finds suitable to their cast of feature, are generally tinged with sly humour as well as acute art-historical observation.

But as a painter his interests are at one with the Masters: he is fascinated by the sensuous surface and hidden architecture of the human body, and this fascination has produced some of the finest nudes of the 20th century.

He has also, in the past few years, taken up still-life, and the exquisitely finished portraits of fruit and flowers in his latest show combine meticulous accuracy with a voluptuous warmth which he never quite allows himself in his figure compositions.

Thomas Gibson Fine Art, 44 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8572) until June 27

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

WHAT happens when you put a real conductor in front of one of the best period-instrument orchestras? This is something that occurs too rarely. The directors of such ensembles usually have little idea of how to conduct, although many of them do so nowadays, regardless of whether the concept of a conductor in much of the earlier repertoire is authentic or not.

But, happily, it does happen on a regular basis with Simon Rattle as principal guest conductor of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He has

An authentic hero at work

CONCERT

OAE/Rattle
Queen Elizabeth Hall

especially in the performance of Schubert's Tenth Symphony in the realisation by Brian Newbould, that Rattle, not afraid to take risks, stretches his players to the full. The

demands of the slow movement exposed some technical weaknesses, but this served to emphasise the strange, new paths Schubert was on the verge of taking.

This strangeness is most apparent in the almost unrelentingly fugue fast movement, yet even the melodious opening Allegro maestoso is chameleon-like in its constant shift between major and minor. I found Newbould's or-

chestration a little fussy here, but Rattle and his team pulled off a convincing account.

Then Rattle brought a brilliantly bold and fresh interpretation to bear on the *Eroica*. Conducting from memory, and in constant eye contact with every section of the orchestra, he drew world-class playing from the OAE, which rose to the challenge magnificently.

Exuberant in the broad sweep of the first movement, fiercely intense in the funeral march, erupting into playfulness for the Scherzo—all this was paced with such coherence that it seemed a preparation for the apotheosis of the hero in the finale. Every detail was in place, in line with the historically informed approach. But what do you get with a real conductor? An interpretation that is strong and individual yet spontaneous, that brings true insight and a deserved roar of appreciation from the audience.

TESS KNIGHTON

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS OF 1610

Reviewed by Bruce Wood

FEW works confront performers with as many problems as Monteverdi's Vespers. The 1610 edition is frustratingly unclear as to instrumentation, the appropriateness of liturgical performance, and even which pieces in the volume actually belong to the Vespers. Hence no two recordings, which span some 30 years, contain exactly the same music.

Three 1970s recordings feature all-male choirs: King's College, Cambridge under Philip Ledger (EMI), Regensburg Cathedral under Hanns-Martin Schneidt (Archiv), and the Hanover Boys' Choir under Heinz Hennig (Ars Musica). The German recordings boast the more sensitive

solo singing, but their choirs are no match for King's.

More recent recordings are astonishingly diverse. John Eliot Gardiner's enormous forces, recorded for Archiv in St Mark's Cathedral, Venice, sound improbably sumptuous: Jordi Savall's brilliant instrumentalists (on Audite Astrée) outshine his singers. Frieder Bernius (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi) offers superlative solo singing, and Harry Christophers (Hyperion) an exceptionally well-drilled choir. Alongside these Nikolaus Harnoncourt's mainstream reading (on Teldec) seems anodyne. With welcome radicalism,

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (Pam): Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations, Op 35



Philippe Herreweghe (Harmonia Mundi) tames the two cruelly high movements, *Lauda Jerusalem* and the *Magnificat*, by transposing them down. But more satisfying yet are the group who pioneered this solution, the Taverner Choir, Consort and Players under Andrew Parrott, at mid-price on Virgin Classics VMD 5634-2, £19.99. Their radiant vocal soloists and virtuoso instrumentalists bring Monteverdi's masterpiece up as fresh as new paint.

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OPERA

Glyndebourne
revives *Figaro*
in style, while
Opera North
airs Korngold's
early *Violanta*



POP 1

Only a storming
show by Van
Morrison injected
life into a
Fleadh hit by
Dylan's withdrawal

THE TIMES
ARTS



POP 2

... but the
Celtic muse is
passionately
articulated by
a touring
Sinéad O'Connor



TOMORROW

Why the second
novel is more
important than
the first —
from Jane
Austen onwards

Teenage tosh

Ernst Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957) is a problem, a prodigiously gifted composer whose natural development was hindered by two world wars and the politico-economic upheavals that separated them. Officially proclaimed a genius as a teenager — he was only 13 when his ballet *Der Schneemann* was premiered at the Vienna Court Opera — he was obliged to take on hackwork to earn a living after the First World War and, unlike Weill, made a success of composing for Hollywood when exiled in the 1930s, for which Europe has never forgiven him. It is probably for his brilliant Warner Bros scores that he will be remembered, rather than for his operas, his impressive *Symphony in F sharp* (1952), or his more than decent string quartets.

Whether or not Opera North has done him any favours by marking his centenary with a concert performance of the one-act opera *Violanta* (Vienna, 1916), completed when he was 17, is open to debate. The teenager's uncanny mastery of late romantic orchestral colour is beyond dispute, but that is about the sum of *Violanta's* attractions. It is heavily indebted to Strauss's *Salome*, but the debts remain unsettled: the melodic germs on which the score is built are by comparison unmemorable, and the music is content to illustrate the text rather than lead or indeed transcend it.

And Hans Müller's libretto is,

OPERA

Violanta
Grand, Leeds

frankly, tosh. The heroine of the title seeks revenge on the Don Giovanni-style seducer of her sister, arranging for her husband to stab him at an agreed (and unmemorable) musical signal. But the seducer reveals that he had an unhappy childhood, which apparently explains everything, and *Violanta* instantly falls in love with him, interposing herself between him and the dagger at the final curtain. Well, honestly.

Opera North promised a semi-staging, but settled for a straight concert on Friday. The excellence of the English Northern Philharmonia's playing under Paul Daniel, with every strand of orchestral fabric clearly laid out, tended to emphasise the threadbare quality of so much of the actual musical thought; in concert, *Violanta* is all gesture rather than substance.

The soloists worked heroically. Janice Cairns energetically riding the orchestra in the strenuous title role, the US tenor Hans Aschenbach whamming out the seducer's music, and Jonathan Summers doing all he could for the dully-composed husband.

RODNEY MILNES

Mozart at the gallop

Stephen Medcalf's Mozart production looked pedestrian when it opened the new house here three years ago. But on revival it has transformed into a *Figaro* fizzing with vitality.

Much of the credit goes to Sir Charles Mackerras. He has had a long layoff from conducting enforced by shoulder problems, but now back in the pit he has the air of a thoroughbred sniffing the heady breezes of the gallops. The overture fairly bounced and bubbled and Mackerras kept up the pressure throughout the three-hour span.

Glyndebourne's young cast was well equipped to cope with the hectic musical pace. There were plenty of new names among the principals, but all had been chosen for a double ability to master Mozart and create clear-cut character. No one is going to be fooled by the last-act disguises (poorly set by John Gunter) because the personalities had been drawn so sharply.

Anton Scharinger begins as a conventional *Figaro*, a genial fellow provided that he can keep what is his — namely Susanna. With a handy riding crop and a knowing grin, he instructs Cherubino on military manoeuvres as opposed to the sexual variety. But the jolly façade gradually breaks up in the outburst against female perfidy in the last act.

Le nozze di Figaro
Glyndebourne

Scharinger was making his British debut and so was Norah Anselme, voluptuously available as the Countess. She handled her tricky first aria with far more skill than many a more experienced soprano. *Dove sono* is usually the one that goes better, but Mackerras, in a rare misjudgment, demanded a little too much.

Wojciech Drabowicz, previously heard here only in Tchaikovsky, was a formidable Count in every aspect: voice, demeanour and hauteur. Rosemary Joshua's Susanna is familiar from the Coliseum, but she too has obviously benefited from Glyndebourne's lengthy rehearsal period. It is a performance full of resource, sung with total clarity and quicksilver reaction.

The controversial piece of casting concerns Cherubino. Susannah Waters plays him as a lustful imp scarcely into puberty. Minutes after discovery in the armchair she is tumbling Barbara behind it, only to be interrupted by the tocsin of Basilio (the excellent Rylan Davies) — one of many original elements which may make this *Figaro* the hit of the season.

JOHN HIGGINS

POP: Van Morrison ignites a downbeat Fleadh; plus, Sinéad O'Connor still captivates



The ascent of the Man: Van Morrison was in blistering form with material from his new album, and even cracked a smile at the Fleadh festival in north London

Van quickens the Celtic heartbeat

The Fleadh
Finsbury Park, N4

Whether it was the enforced absence of the ailing Bob Dylan or some generally erratic programming, the Fleadh this year was a strangely flat event, sparking only intermittently until a towering performance by Van Morrison gave the event shape and purpose late in the evening. Attendance seemed down, with the suspicion that many Dylan fans had simply stayed away.

Nervous deserved better than the opening slot, when the park was still half empty. Now slimmer down to a six-piece, they are a British version of Counting Crows, brimming with powerful, melodic songs and passionate vocals. The only difference is that the Crows sold six million copies of their debut album while Nervous have sold 6,000. In a fairer world it could have been the other way round.

Sharon Shannon also suffered from an early slot, but her exquisitely wild squeeze-box playing reminded us that the Fleadh is still

essentially an Irish festival. Fortunately she returned later to join Donal Lunny, who also brought on the delightful Eddi Reader, in a set of largely traditional material that was among the liveliest of the afternoon. The Irish input was maintained by Altan, whose jigs and reels whetted the appetite for their new *Runaway Sunday* album, and Brian Kennedy, who has always had a strong, pure voice but has clearly learnt a lot from his time backing Morrison.

The 19-year-old Naimée Coleman is tipped as the brightest new

star in the Irish firmament, but her uncertain performance suggested that she has not yet decided whether she wants to be a rock babe or a sensitive singer-songwriter.

It was indicative of the inexorable march of dance culture into the mainstream that among the best received acts, even with an audience more into Guinness than

Ecstasy, were Dreadzone, who played an inspired mix of techno-trance-dub from their forthcoming *Biological Radio* album, and the Afro-Celt Sound System, whose tribal beats enveloped in swirling Irish mists make them the perfect festival band, ever present this summer, from Tribal Gathering to the Cambridge Folk Festival.

Disappointments included the Diviac Comedy, whose louche nightclub irony was lost in the wide open spaces, and the Lightning Seeds, whose normally engaging power-pop failed to ignite. It was

impossible to get near the tented second stage to hear Suzanne Vega, who should surely have been playing the main arena. Later fine reports filtered out from the marquee about the Go-Betweens but by this time Van Morrison was weaving his sophisticated magic.

He was in ripe voice mostly on material from the recent, underrated *Healing Game* album, with spruce versions of *Domino* and *Jackie Wilson* said the only raids into the most illustrious back catalogue in rock. A dynamic horn section made the guitar-led pop that had dominated most of the day sound thin in comparison, and at one point the singer even turned to grin at Brian Kennedy, probably the first sighting of a Morrison smile on stage this decade.

The raucous goodtime thrashing of Shane MacGowan and the Popes — a last-minute substitute for Dylan — could never really follow that.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

A talent for passionate pop

Sinéad O'Connor
UEA, Norwich

ing snatches of *Eleanor Rigby*. Yet her refusal to rant gives the sentiments a quiet authority.

O'Connor has the knack of seeming both vulnerable and assured, both fragile and resilient. She can appear to be shy. Her stage chords are mumbled into the microphone, her words swallowed in embarrassment. Her awkwardness is mirrored in the awkwardness of her four backing singers. But when they joined together on *This Is To Mother You* from her new EP, the breathy

hesitancy of the opening is swept away upon a gospel chorus of five voices locked in harmony.

These days her music has a strong Celtic feel, but it is folk singing mixed with the swagger of rock and the sway of reggae and Irish reels. Her six-piece band help to mark out the emotional storyline of her songs. *Thank You for Hearing Me* starts as a lilting traditional song, O'Connor's voice shimmering on the surface, but before long it is joined by Clare Kenny's rumbling bass and the

song billows into life, like a becalmed yacht catching a gust of wind.

Her show opens with *The Emperor's New Clothes* and closes with *Fire on Babylon*, two stridently confident songs. In between, the emotional territory is more confused, and more intriguing, especially on the beautiful *John I Love You* (from *Universal Mother*) and *Petit Poulet* (from the *Gospel Oak* EP). Her singing is often unadorned and understated, and often buried in the mix, but suddenly it will break free in an exhilarating, evening swoop. She may no longer be the keisy, cussed woman she once was, but O'Connor is still a captivating performer.

JOHN STREET

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Clarke likes jazz, Lilley has the tunes

Robert Skidelsky says Tory MPs should prefer ideas to charisma

What direction should the Conservative Party take in Opposition? The answer, say the Tories, is to push back the frontiers of reform, particularly in social policy. Despite many successes, the framework of political economy, which even Labour accepts, is therefore to attack mistakes in the conduct of policy and to offer a credible alternative administration.

According to the second reading, the task of Opposition is more ambitious. It is to push back the frontiers of reform, particularly in social policy. Despite many successes, the framework of political economy, which even Labour accepts, is therefore to attack mistakes in the conduct of policy and to offer a credible alternative administration.

Like Clarke, Lilley is clever; unlike him, he is careful

The essence of what might be called the managerial view of Opposition is that the Conservatives must not make themselves unelectable by "lurching to the Right", as Labour "lurches to the Left" in 1979. The managerialists argue that rapid recovery from the two heavy electoral defeats of 1945 and 1966 depended on forswearing "ideology" and sticking to the centre ground.

This is less than a half-truth. David Willetts (in his *Modern Conservatism*) reminds us that in the late 1940s the Conservative Party deliberately repositioned itself as the party of freedom and that in 1970 the Tories campaigned (successfully) on a manifesto which was "more Thatcherite than the 1983 manifesto — and probably even the manifesto of 1979". Edward Heath's lack of belief in it contributed to his failure. Each of the Conservative revivals was accompanied by an intellectual ferment which culminated in a rededication to the cause of freedom and limited government. The notion that the idea of freedom, together with practical policies to enlarge it, is as electorally repugnant to the British people as were the projects of the extreme Left seems to me one of the grosser misreadings of recent history.

The real issue is, then, the following: will the Conservative Opposition be content to compete for the management of Labour's version of the Thatcherite inheritance, or will it risk thinking through what it means to be the party of freedom in the new millennium? This, I believe, is the choice, offered by Kenneth Clarke and Peter Lilley, the two serious and worthy contenders for John Major's fallen

crown. Michael Howard and John Redwood seem to me to confuse popularity with populism, and about William Hague I know little except that he is young, balding and made a good speech at the age of 16. Mr Clarke is a political heavyweight. He would make an effective and pugnacious leader. He is quick and clever, popular in the country, and would win verbal duels in the Commons. Here lies his weakness. He is not a man of ideas, nor is he instinctively attracted to those who have them. They bore him. A doughty Heathite survivor, he has accepted parts of the Thatcher revolution, but his logic never entered his soul. This, it is argued, has kept him human. People will not feel threatened by Mr Clarke, which is very important. But whom will he attract into the party? Why should one be a Clarke Conservative rather than Blairite Labour? I can find no convincing answer.

Peter Lilley lacks Mr Clarke's "charisma". He seems cerebral, and rather cold. Like Mr Clarke he is formidably clever, unlike Mr Clarke, he is thoughtful and careful. He feels passion, but finds it hard to express. He is a powerful debater. He will not score easy verbal triumphs, but he will consistently land heavy punches. No one is more likely to dent Labour's intellectual self-confidence.

Two days after his appointment as Secretary of State for Social Services in 1992, Frank Field — now a minister in the same department — howled him "a little technical question which aimed at best to get him waffling and at worst to floor him. His answer was deftly battled back with such force and confidence that all I could do was quietly to resume my seat."

Mr Lilley's pension-plus plan, the most important reform — though alas too late — to come out of the late Government, showed some of the qualities the party might expect of him as leader: a love of freedom, concern to get the argument right, commitment to workable reforms and a skill in presentation. Ironically, though Lilley is to the "right" of Clarke, he is less abrasive, more consensual.

In choosing between two fine contenders, Conservative MPs will need to balance the need quickly to build up morale and the need to renew the party spiritually and intellectually — to make it exciting and to give a new electorate positive reasons to vote for it. A Clarke-led Conservative Party will do the former; I cannot imagine it achieving the latter. A Lilley-led party has a chance to do both.

We would all prefer a leader with both star-quality and good tunes. It would be better to start by acquiring some good tunes. The star quality will follow in due course.

The author takes the Conservative whip in the Lords.



Books and barbarism

Antiquarian dealers refused to publish this attack by Germaine Greer on the vandals who dismember rare volumes

A book, whether well or badly made, is a very intimate thing. Only you the reader can hold it in your hands. open and enter its pages. If other people try to share your reading with you, peering over your shoulder as you read on the Underground, you feel embarrassed and try to angle the opening away from violating gaze. A stranger who tries to read what you read as you are reading it is the worst kind of intruder, reading your mind, as it were, without your permission. It is worse than tapping your phone.

If the book is well made, of hand-made paper stoutly stitched and with a hand-tooled leather binding, sensual pleasure is added to this intense intimacy. The best-made books have individual smells: my morocco-bound presentation copy of *The Waterbabies* has a smell that recalls my childhood every bit as effectively as the scent of Proust's madeleines. If, on the other hand, you have before you a block of cheap modern paper in what is laughingly known as "perfect binding", which uses no stitching at all, you know that this is a book that will not be around long enough to become a friend because, when its glue dries out, as glue must do, there will come a day when you will open it and all its leaves will fall to the floor.

Usually we are unaware of the people who have had our book before us. We read on in blissful communion unless we are brought up short by some marginal comment, as disconcerting as a lipstick mark upon a collar. I shall never forget the shock of finding, written in a contemporary hand in the margin of a copy of the 1667 folio edition of the works of the poet Katherine Philips, a colourful four-letter word. That particular copy of this handsome edition, left in 1869 to the Victoria and Albert Museum by the scholar and collector the Reverend Alexander Dyce, contains other 17th-century marginalia that are rather less disturbing.

To a bibliophile, as distinct from a textual scholar (though many booklovers are both), it is important to find out the identity of past owners of a book in his *Index of English Literary Manuscripts*. Dr Peter Beal gives almost as much importance to books that can be proved to have been owned by particular authors as he does to the manuscripts of their own work. All writers read more than they write, and what they write is illuminated by knowing what they read.

Fortunes were spent on restoration, which meant, in effect, destruction

Nowadays, historians are putting more energy than ever before into the history of reading; we cannot understand intellectual life in any epoch if we do not know what was read, by how many, how often and how understood. Ironically, the more popular a book, the more it is handled, carried and passed from hand to hand, the less likely it is to survive.

Scholars in my line of business are hooked on the sensual appeal of old books. Though they know that some of the most valuable books in the British Library (the most comprehensive and valuable collection of pre-19th-century printed books in the world) are suffering from regular handling by thousands of bare hands, their pages turned by an endless succession of fingertips, each equipped with a sweat-pad, they refuse to consult the same books on microfilm. They want to get the feel, the weight, the smell of the real, surviving, actual book, whether they have a special bibliographic interest or not.

These are pleasures they will soon have to forgo. In the past, fortunes were spent on restoring old books, which meant, in effect, destroying them. They were taken apart, sometimes the leaves were encased in special membranes, and rebound as fat, tight, glossy things that would withstand all handling. The process was not only expensive but, like a

good deal of art restoration, misguided to the point of insane vandalism. An historian of the book can learn little or nothing from a book that has been treated in this way. With the aid of specially engineered computers and specially designed software, we will soon be able to find out much more about papers, types, inks and bindings than was dreamt of before — provided that their structure has not been obliterated. We should already be able to arrange surviving copies of an edition in the order that they came off the press, for example, merely by microscopic analysis of wear to the type, and thus to arrive at accurate assessments of stop-press corrections and suppressions.

Better knowledge of the book is important to me as a scholar of literature: if in the pursuit of better understanding I have to forgo the deep and quiet pleasure of holding some of our most precious old books in my bare hands, for nothing, so be it. Our national collections of books are our birthright; but it is no longer feasible to allow us to paw them, any more than we can try on the Crown Jewels. If we want to hold these precious parcels in our naked hands in future, we are going to have to own them.

It is now 30 years since I became a collector and a custodian of old books. At first I bought copies of printings of rare women poets, most of them first editions, not because I wanted the books but because I wanted the poems. For years, I let these slim volumes kick around all over the house, on my desk, on the floor, by my bed, and occasionally on a bookshelf: only last week I began slipping them into sleeves, to protect them against further damage from central heating, light, dust and

pollution, noticing guiltily how many of them had inscriptions and dedications, and how little account I had made of them.

These were not for the most part well-made books and, given my rough treatment, they have aged very badly. Ten years ago I began to acquire 17th-century editions. Though I like nothing better than looking at their gold-tooled leather spines ranged in their walnut bookcase, I'm afraid that too many have to go into sleeves, to be taken out and handled on quiet evenings in the company of a noble claret.

These days, as I poke about on bookstalls looking for something to rescue, I discover too often that I am too late. In stall after stall in street markets all over Europe vendors offer the wreckage of beautiful books in the shape of single leaves selling at inflated prices. Even reputable merchants with shops in elegant streets are unembarrassed to sell such leaves

as prints. Whenever I see a page torn from a psalter or a missal, or worse still a herbal or a florilegium, and sold off as something to frame and hang on a wall, I vow to ring my Euro MP and ask him to bring a Bill in the European Parliament to outlaw any further breaking up of antiquarian books for profit, and to require that every leaf of such a book offered for sale has a certificate of provenance. If it is barbarous to burn a book, it is hardly less barbarous to dismember it. And still I see, as I bid in book auctions, the vandals raising their paddles alongside me, forcing the prices to something I cannot pay, because the tatters of the book can be sold for more than the book itself. These are outrages that we can and should stop now.

Dr Greer is an Unofficial Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, and the author of many books on English literature and feminism. This article was written at the invitation of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association as the introduction to the catalogue of its annual London Book Fair, opening on June 26. The ABA rejected the piece due to its implied criticism of ABA members. Libby Purves is away. Her column will resume next week.

At stall after stall, all over Europe, vendors offer nothing but wreckage

Point duty

MADAME Speaker has grand designs within the Palace of Westminster but she also exerts her influence on its immediate environs. Yesterday she took to directing the traffic in Parliament Square. Inspired perhaps by John Prescott's plan for an integrated transport system, Betty Boothroyd became enraged by the havoc she witnessed while walking the pavements outside the Houses of Parliament.

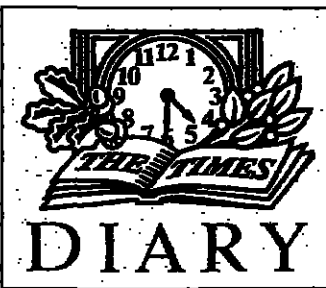
The traffic lights had failed once again in the square and a stew of

vehicles was making life impossible for pedestrians who, like herself, needed to cross Parliament Street. So Madame Speaker bustled up menacingly to a policeman who was looking on. "If you don't get on and do something I'll do it myself," she said. Thereupon, she marched into the middle of the road, held up her hand and started telling the drivers where to go.

"She's not in the habit of doing this," said her secretary. "It was purely to facilitate her own crossing and that of the pedestrians with her."

The AA cautioned against such actions, although the organisation stressed that it was not illegal for anybody to start directing traffic. "If she had made anybody crash, she would have been liable," said a spokesman. "And, clearly, motorists could have ignored her if they had chosen to. But knowing the way she deals with errant MPs, that might not have been wise."

After the excitement of his wine sale, Lord Lloyd-Webber is disposing of more mundane chattels in Ireland, where he has a house which has just been renovated. Curtains, a marble fireplace, the odd mirror and some paintings from his stud farm, Kiltinan



Castle, Co Tipperary, are to be sold later this month at an auction in Castlecomer. His office stresses that this is no indication that he plans to leave Britain and live in Ireland for good.

Beef stew

IN A CONFLICT of interests that can only send shockwaves through the meat industry, it has emerged that Lord Donoghue, Minister for Farming and Food, is a vegetarian. The news has turned the sizeable stomach of Nicholas Soames, a former Minister for Food. The recently appointed junior minister is responsible for a number of agricultural policy sectors, including common agricultural policy reform and other meaty areas. "He eats less red meat these days for reasons of health," says a source in Westminster. "No meat has passed Donoghue's lips since the elec-

tion." Stephen Carr, who owns a farm in East Sussex and writes for the farming press, said: "Well, let's hope he likes fish."

Another victory over the press for new Labour took place on Saturday as a Downing Street football team beat a team from the Commons' press gallery. Led by the Financial Times's correspondent George "Tackle" Parker, the hacks could do nothing against the young politicians, who even felled two women, one of them Liz Lloyd from the No 10 policy unit. Tim Allan, from the PM's press office, scored twice in the 3-1 victory. Nat-



"It confirms you drank with all the Tory leadership candidates"

urally, the game took place in Islington.

Needle match

HARD-EARNED reputations were on the line at west London's River Cafe on Sunday night at a quiz night to raise money for the Turville Children's Project, which enables children from inner cities to spend time in the Buckinghamshire countryside. The compère was Jeremy Paxman, a resident of Turville; questions were set by Gill Hornby, the wife of the writer Robert Harris and sister of Nick Hornby, the author of *Fever Pitch*. When the team comprising Harris, Hornby N, and Tom Stoppard emerged as the winners, including the likes of Salman Rushdie, John Mortimer and Richard Eyre, accusations started to fly. Had Harris and Hornby exploited their close links with the question setter? To cries of "Fix", Paxman stepped in. "When Robert won last time, suspicions of his victory reached the letters pages of *The Times*. This year, I can confirm, he has been in a state of complete misery and isolation for the past two weeks."

Fine catch

ONLY the very best will do for the world's richest man, even when it



Richards: easy wicket

comes to his children's sports education. Viv Richards, the stylish batsman and former captain of the West Indies cricket side, has been flown into Brunel to coach one of the Sultan's two sons.

The master blaster, as the Sultan affectionately calls Richards, is being paid an undisclosed sum for his services but his effort will have been worthwhile. When Ian Botham ran a little low financially after the Imran Khan libel case, the Sultan took him on as a coach and is said to have paid him £200,000 for his troubles.

The long and short of a boom

Anatole Kaletsky takes issue with the Chancellor

In the long run we are all dead. Of all the wise insights produced by John Maynard Keynes, the 20th century's only great economist, this was perhaps the wisest. It both explains the practical failure of pre-Keynesian theoretical economics and acts as a mental inoculation against tyrannies, dogmas and ideologies, most of which assume that "short-term" sacrifices of prosperity, political freedom or even human life — must be made to achieve some glorious "long-term" outcome.

I start with these somewhat arcane reflections because I experienced a political epiphany last week: the Manichaean battle between short-term and long-term thinking will be at the heart of every government economic policy in the years ahead. As an unabashed Keynesian and someone who has seen long-termism used for decades in Germany and Japan as a euphemism for inflexibility, complacency and refusal to accept change, I know which side of this argument I am likely to be on. More importantly, I see more clearly where Gordon Brown's instincts lie.

Last week I witnessed the results of his philosophy in action: first came an increase in interest rates, then I had the pleasure of discussing with my wife what luxuries we might buy with our share of the windfalls raining down on 11 million British households.

The Chancellor believes in the long term with a fervour I have rarely seen — certainly not since the forced retirement of Nigel Lawson, whose biggest mistake was always to stick to long-term convictions, when short-term adjustments were required. Will Mr Brown now fall into the same trap?

His first five weeks in office have seen a whirlwind of policy announcements even before he unveils his Budget — the freeing of the Bank of England, a new system for financial regulation, the evident disdain for short-term demand management as a recipe for job creation, a passion, instead, for structural solutions such as reform of the welfare and tax system. All these have emphasised long-term stability and rejected opportunism. Expressed like that, the strategy sounds virtuous. But where is it likely to lead?

Mr Brown is convinced that the more today's consumption boom can be restrained by the Bank of England and the Budget, the better investment will respond. In his view, the greatest failure of the British has been, today and under successive Conservative Governments, our low level of manufacturing investment.

Although there are as many divergent figures on investment as there are politicians and economists arguing about them, it is hard to deny the thrust of Mr Brown's claims. Investment has been low throughout the past five years of economic expansion and it has been extremely low in the manufacturing industries. These are felt by the public to be particularly important for the nation's long-term wellbeing because they produce the tangible "things" of real value — unlike retailing, advertising and so on.

A Keynesian short-termist such as myself has no difficulty in explaining low investment. Businesses will invest only when their existing factories are working near full capacity and they can anticipate a substantial growth in demand for their goods. In the past year demand for British goods was only just reaching such levels when manufacturers' profits were squeezed by the strength of sterling, and then by the highest interest rates in the civilised world. Under these circumstances we short-termists would rely on strong consumption to boost investment. If possible, I would also seek to reduce interest rates and lower sterling, while sharply raising taxes. This would make manufactured exports more profitable than production for the home market.

But Mr Brown's long-term philosophy leads him to exactly the opposite view. The Chancellor appears to believe that the fundamental reason for low investment has been the short-term orientation of government policy, which has resulted in inflationary booms and busts. What is deterring investment on this view is not the strength of sterling or the fear of an overzealous Bank of England — it is the manufacturers' fear of the consumer boom itself.

All short-term booms lead eventually to inflation and that, in turn, produces a bust. According to this theory, manufacturers have been discouraged from investing by the recent strength of consumer spending. The way to give them more courage and thereby to increase long-term investment would be to squeeze short-term demand. And since the Treasury's ability to hit consumers with higher taxes has been circumscribed by election promises, there is all the more reason for giving the Bank a free hand: hence the rush to make it independent.

So there you have it: the long-term theory against the short-term one. We will see which is right, by the time the long term is upon us. Let us hope that neither the economy nor the new Government is by then dead.



Boothroyd: directing traffic

P.H.S



NEW WELFARE

Labour's ideas are tentative but promising

Welfare dependency is the least welcome legacy of the postwar decades. The true test of Tony Blair's radicalism will be the extent to which he is prepared to tackle it. Britain now has an underclass from which escape is hard, in which crime and despair are easy, to which new generations are constantly being born. The result is not just a fractured society; it is one that is economically inefficient and expensive for those in work.

Social security spending accounts for nearly a third of all government expenditure, almost matching the money used for health, education and defence taken together. Since 1979, this amount has risen by 85 per cent in real terms. But, even if the social security bill were not rising, there would still be social and economic arguments for trying to reintegrate the underclass into the labour market. The existence of so many unemployed, lone parents and long-term sick or disabled not only creates the traditional inner-city problems — it also holds back Britain's potential for growth.

Gordon Brown's welfare-to-work programme should increase labour supply at the right time in the economic cycle, as skill shortages are beginning to appear. But his proposals are not tough enough. Those 18 to 25-year-olds who have been unemployed for more than six months will be offered four reasonable options; they should not be allowed the fifth one of doing nothing (or working on the black market) for 60 per cent of their benefit.

Harriet Harman's proposals for lone parents are also too timid. She plans to call them into the jobcentre for careers advice when their youngest child reaches school age. But why should they not be expected to engage in education, training or part-time work while their children are at school? In Britain's admirably flexible labour market, many employers now offer part-time, term-time employment, which can be dovetailed with holiday work for students.

The Social Security Secretary should also look at the growing number of claimants who say they are unfit for work even as the health of the nation is improving. As we report today, she is thinking of providing less cash and more home help for this group. This should act as a deterrent to those who see living on incapacity or disablement

benefits as an early retirement. She should also review their fitness more frequently and reconsider the medical incapacity test, which assesses ability to do manual work. Most jobs are now in the service sector; physical disabilities should not be automatic disqualification for work.

As Mr Brown emphasised in Luxembourg yesterday, the best way to create jobs is to increase people's employability. The Department of Social Security should see this as its job, possibly contracting out to the private sector too. An American programme, "America Works", uses a private company to teach the long-term unemployed literacy, punctuality, presentation and other tools of work before finding them a job and supporting them through the first few months. The organisation is paid by results — and the results have been a great success. This approach has been more effective than giving subsidies directly to private-sector employers, who tend to assume that people who qualify for subsidies are, by definition, unemployable.

It is encouraging, too, to see Ms Harman and her deputy, Frank Field, considering other routes for provision against the vicissitudes of life. In some areas, such as income support, the State should probably continue as the last resort. But the State is a very remote institution and continuing public support for the welfare state will depend upon people feeling a greater connection between what they pay and what they stand to receive. Making the national insurance system more autonomous, managed for and "owned" by its contributors, might be seen as a cosmetic move by purists, but it could help to make taxpayers resent their contributions less.

The encouragement of a "mutual" sector standing between the State and the citizen is also a promising move. All insurance, private or public, needs risks to be pooled. But this need not necessarily be done at a national level. For pensions, long-term care, disability and sickness, there is plenty of scope for a return to the friendly society model of welfare. When a Labour Government, traditionally the champion of the State, is proposing such a reduction of the State's responsibilities, we begin to see what new Labour might properly mean.

SUCH A HEALTHY IDEA

Vanity is a virtue when it comes to keeping men healthy

Male economic power is in decline; the male biological role is usurped by jam jar and syringe; men are finding it daily more difficult to convince women of their worth. As women become choosier, so men have to attend to their appearance. An *Hermès* tie draped over the beer belly like a silkenski slope is no longer enough. The best way men have of ensuring that they appear to advantage is getting, and staying, healthy.

From follicular sheen to washboard stomach, rude health is the visible guarantee of well, a healthy amount of rudeness. Vanity may be the impetus for working out and taking care but society benefits from men who are vigorous and vital. Men's Health Week, sponsored by the magazine of that name, may be the brainchild of a periodical for preeners but the taut rear end justifies the male model means. The Health Education Council's support for the magazine's efforts is also an exquisitely poised embrace of the private sector by the public in which new Labour's always well-groomed spin doctors should delight.

Vanity may be the starting point for men determined to pursue a healthier lifestyle but the other benefits of being in condition should be stressed. Men have a lower life expectancy than women and are more likely to succumb to preventable diseases. They are less likely to go to the doctor when they should and more likely to go to the pub when they should not. Raising men's awareness of the dangers inherent in many male life-

styles, however, requires gentle sleeve-tugging and whispered wisdom. The best of men will often deprecate the "fuss" that proper healthcare involves.

Some of the most admirably unselfconscious men will demur at the necessary check-up, preferring not to "bother" their physician when, in fact, nothing would delight a doctor more than spotting early, and stemming, a potentially troublesome problem. Many of the most charming men will consider it morally more admirable to be a lively guest than a puritan bottle-watcher. But a proper thoughtfulness for others should make even the most bibulous more moderate. They should realise that delightful company as a convivial father, husband or friend may be, there will be more of his society to enjoy in the long run if he makes himself a little less social.

Making men healthier is not all hard work and thin gruel. It can be a simple matter of flexibility. Giving GPs more leeway to run their surgeries as they see fit can make it easier for the busy executive to drop in, or at least more difficult for him to make the excuse that he cannot. Better health can depend on others making an effort as well as oneself; but, praise be to fashion, it can also derive from making no effort at all. For those who wish to see the toxins flood effortlessly out of their system, while staying at style's cutting edge, the steam bath beckons. In the Nineties, the men's sauna is the route to a *corpore sano*.

CHANGE FOR THE ROCK

The call for a modern Gibraltar deserves to be heard

Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, will shortly ask the new Labour Government to confer "a new status" on the Rock. As we report today, his idea is for the 284-year-old colony to secure a political arrangement with Britain akin to that of Guernsey or the other Channel Islands.

Mr Caruana's call is part of a welcome determination to construct a modern Gibraltar. The colony's constitution, put in place in 1969, needs clear reform. A set of rules that may have been adequate when the Rock was wholly reliant on the Ministry of Defence is now ill-suited to the aspirations of a dynamic people. Gibraltar's economy, no longer dependent on defence-related MoD expenditure, has acquired a new maturity. Its constitution, too, deserves to evolve.

The colony's Chief Minister, who is a source of good sense, is right to seek a "Guernsey-like" status for Gibraltar. The process of change will be arduous. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will need to give it vigorous attention. But the project is imaginative and provides a way for Gibraltar to divest itself of its colonial status (which, however benign, rankles with which, however benign, rankles with Gibraltarians) without cutting cherished ties to Britain. In fact, by becoming a dependency, Gibraltar will acquire both an enhanced degree of autonomy as well as a greater element of integration with Britain.

Once the Rock is a colony no longer, the post of Governor will be abolished, ridding Gibraltar of a symbol which many of its citizens now resent. The recent appointment of Sir Richard Luce — the first civilian, with an unimpressive record on the Falklands, when a junior minister — has robbed the job of some of its lustre. The Rock no longer needs a Governor.

A new non-colonial status would also see the transfer of responsibility for Gibraltar to the Home Office, plucking the "problem" from the grasp of the Foreign Office. This would, of course, give London a greater role in some areas of Gibraltar's internal affairs, such as law enforcement. Yet given the continuing Spanish complaints about smuggling, this should work to the Rock's diplomatic advantage.

Spain, surely, will object to any change in Gibraltar's status. But it has no legal ground for doing so. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, under which the Crown acquired title to Gibraltar in perpetuity, does not forbid a more modern political arrangement. Mr Caruana seeks self-determination for his people. Pursuit of the "Guernsey model" is an imaginative route to self-government that stops short of independence. Such change might not have been necessary at all had Spain shown more imagination in its own dealings with the Rock.

Qualities required of the Tory leader

From Mrs Gillian Shephard, MP for Norfolk South West (Conservative), and others

Sir, We are amongst those MPs who have been actively working to elect Peter Lilley the next leader of the Conservative Party. We share your positive assessment of him (leading article, June 6).

Peter Lilley offers a rare combination of consistency, intellect, determination and proven effectiveness. He has the strength of purpose and of intellect to restore unity to the Conservative Party, to renew its policies and to rebuild a broadly based party. In short, Peter Lilley is the person best able to destroy the credibility of the Labour Government in the Commons and provide direction and leadership for our party.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN SHEPHARD,
DAVID AMESS,
JOHN BERCOW,
MICHAEL COLVIN,
PATRICK CORMACK,
ERIC FORTH,
NICK GIBB,PHILIP HAMMOND,
GERALD HOWARTH,
ROBERT JENKIN,
ROBERT KEY,
PIERS MERCHANT,
RICHARD SPRING,
ROBERT SYMS,
ANDREW TYRIE,
NIGEL WATERSON,
DAVID WILLETTS,
JOHN WHITTINGDALE,
Campaign for Peter Lilley,
Gayfere House,
22-23 Gayfere Street, SW1,
June 9.

From Mr Duncan Reed and others
Sir, Unlike the former university students whose letter you publish this morning, we believe that Michael Howard is the best man to lead the attack on Labour in Parliament and to restore the fortunes of the Conservative Party across the United Kingdom and across the generations. Younger people are attracted, perhaps above all, by a strong sense of ideological conviction.

Mr Howard combines clear principles with a matchless record of loyalty and achievement. He commands the respect and support of a broad range of Conservative opinion — quite apart from the appeal he possesses across the country as a result of his success at the Home Office. He is a man who gets things done — and there is much to do.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN REED
(Chairman, Cambridge University Conservative Association, 1994),
ANDY DAVIES
(Chairman, Greater London Conservative Students, 1997),
NICKY GRIFFITH
(Chairman, Wessex Area Young Conservatives, 1995-97),
DAN HANNAN
(President, Oxford University Conservative Association, 1992),
GRAHAM MONTGOMERY
(Chairman, Northern Ireland Young Conservatives, 1997),
Michael Howard Campaign,
8 Lord North Street, SW1,
June 9.

From Sir Julian Critchley
Sir, Mr Harold Macmillan, when Prime Minister, made much of this dictum:

The leader of a party must first dominate the chamber of the House of Commons. When he has done so, he will dominate the party in Parliament. Once that is achieved, he will carry the country.

Macmillan followed his own advice in 1957, when the Tory party was in disarray, and the victory of 1959 was the result. Of the assortment of candidates putting themselves forward for the leadership of the Tory party today, only Kenneth Clarke is capable of taking that essential first step, namely the dominance of the House of Commons; when he has done so the rest will surely follow.

Yours etc,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY
(Conservative MP
for Aldershot, 1970-97),
19 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire,
June 9.

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith
Sir, "Getting Westminster right will bring the upstroke in membership," writes Matthew Parris ("Tories need votes, not roots", June 6). Precisely. It will also restore confidence and faith, for it is the arena of the House of Commons which will count in the next few years.

If the new leader mounts and sustains an effective and essentially intelligent attack on Blair, success will rapidly flow to supporters and former supporters as it did in the Eighties. What joy to read such absolute truth! "We need to see a boss at Westminster, not a chaplain, a glorified party manager, a salesman or a communications supremo".

What further joy if the most serious contender, who has not hosted a mass of drinks parties, lunches and grinning pretensions throughout the campaign, namely John Redwood, was given the opportunity to lead, lead, lead.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,
34 Thomas More House,
Barbican, EC2,
June 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Grass roots 'bloodied but unbowed'

From Mrs Patricia A. Fea

Sir, The article by Matthew Parris today ("Tories need votes, not roots") is a distillation of all the reasons why the Conservative Party lost the last election so catastrophically.

Mr Parris, a former Conservative MP, apparently believes that only MPs should determine policy; that the views of party activists don't matter; that financial contributions of party members form a negligible percentage of the party income, and therefore don't matter either; that any idea that party representation in local government forms a sound foundation on which to build is derisory; and so, by implication, that local councillors don't matter.

This was indeed the attitude of many Conservative members of the last Government, which led to the result of May 1. A parliamentary party which treats its own voluntary workers with contempt is hardly likely to show a more listening ear to the wider electorate.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA A. FEA,
Peabury, Latchmoor Grove,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
June 6.

From Mr Ronald M. Bell

Sir, Bloodied but unbowed must be the way to describe the Tory troops in the North West — though the picture is significantly different from the one you paint (reports, June 6).

While Bolton South East Conservatives may have cause to lament the "almost terminal decline" of their association, other constituencies in the North West report a wholly different set of circumstances.

In Labour-held Warrington South, where the Labour Party significantly tightened its grip on May 1, membership of the Conservative Association is more than 450, with 23 new members joining this year alone, and new branches formed in the area. Bury South, captured from the Tories, reports that eight new members have joined since the general election.

Tory-held Westmorland and Lonsdale has recruited 100 new members this year alone, without a specific

membership drive. The Young Conservatives report an even more rosy picture in Cumbria, with a whole new band of youngsters ready to fight the Tory corner when the time comes.

Nobody can deny that things have changed dramatically since the high point of the 1950s — but your gloom does not reflect imminent doom for the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD M. BELL,
Regional Director,
Conservative Central Office,
North West Region,
Eric Taylor House,
17 St Mary's Place, Bury, Lancashire,
June 6.

From Mr Nicholas Cooper

Sir, Our achievements in the Cities of London and Westminster do not match the negative picture of the state of the Conservative Party reflected in today's issue.

Over the last three years we have enrolled more than 800 new members, and last year alone we raised £50,000 which we were able to hand over to Conservative Central Office.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS COOPER
(Vice-Chairman),
The Cities of London
and Westminster
Conservative Association,
90 Ebury Street, SW1,
June 6.

From Mr Victor Black

Sir, John Lloyd today ("The lady is not for imitating") analyses the relationship between Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher. In doing so, he clearly illustrates what I believe to be her single most important contribution to the history of this country: she cured the Labour Party of socialism.

This not only made his election victory possible, but let's lifelong Tories, like me, view it with equanimity and cautious goodwill.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR BLACK,
Lower Farm House,
Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire,
June 6.

Panorama's time-slot

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, On Monday, June 2, for the first time, BBC's *Panorama* ended outside peak-time. Shifting it from 9.30pm to 10pm diminishes the programme and the BBC.

What distinguished *Panorama* from other current affairs programmes in the past was the calibre of its reporters: Robin Day, Ludovic Kennedy, Robert Kee, Michael Charlton and the late James Mossman. Apart from Tom Mangold, who can name a single *Panorama* reporter to-day? Other than the interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, who can recall a single *Panorama* programme over the last two years?

In the US, every Sunday evening, the CBS programme *60 Minutes* and its team of correspondents underline that a programme featuring distinguished reporters can still be required viewing. For the last 20 years it has always been in the top ten programmes.

The BBC governors should show their mettle, seek an inquiry into why *Panorama* has been displaced by a situation comedy and publish the findings.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOX
(Managing Director,
BBC Network Television, 1988-91),
10 Charterhouse Square, EC1,
June 6.

Dialysis treatment

From Dr I. H. Khan

Sir, Your report (early editions, May 31) on Wiltshire Health Authority's decision to publish guidelines for selecting patients for dialysis treatment in kidney failure is disturbing. Kidney dialysis or transplantation are the only means by which patients with kidney failure can be kept alive.

The United Kingdom already lags behind most western countries in the numbers of patients who are offered treatment in kidney failure. We dialyse around 80 patients per million of the population per year compared with around 200 per million in the United States. Rationing in renal dialysis is already a reality in this country.

The UK Renal Association's guidelines on standards of treatment in renal failure and the recently published NHS Executive's National Renal Review for England have highlighted the need for increased resources for dialysis treatment in the UK.

There is no crystal ball which allows us to foresee how well or how long a patient will survive after commencing dialysis treatment. As a practicing nephrologist I and other colleagues are frequently faced with the difficult choice of whether or not to treat elderly and infirm patients with kidney failure. In such cases usually a "trial" of dialysis is offered. It is therefore not uncommon to have patients well into their eighties or older who do well on treatment. The real cost of treatment is incurred by long-term patients who do well and survive.

Yours faithfully,
IZHAR H. KHAN
(Consultant nephrologist),
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary,
101 South Anderson Drive, Aberdeen.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Cormorant effect on fish stocks

From Mr John Bailey

Sir, As an angler and a naturalist, I agree with the writer of your leading article of June 5 ("The finest fisher-bird") that the cormorant is a superb fish-catching machine. However, it is not operating in freshwaters of plenty as you would suggest.

The vast majority of inland lakes and rivers in this country are not stocked by man but rely on natural recruitment which, in most cases, is not enough to sustain viable and self-perpetuating populations. In my home county of Norfolk I estimate that there are around 20 miles of important river, of which around 15 are regularly stocked by clubs for trout fishing. Throughout the rest of these rivers, chub and dace stocks have declined horrifically through a mixture of causes; these include dredging, chemical run-off from the land and abstraction.

Of around 200 significant still waters, perhaps a dozen are stocked with trout and slightly more with carp, though these fish are generally too large for cormorants to eat. As for the rest, native rudd, tench and bream stocks are finding life intolerably hard in estate lakes, pits, ponds and broads. Here, further water mismanagement and neglect is reducing their numbers, in many cases to the point of extinction.

A glut of cormorants does not help our native freshwater fish. I would argue that the beautiful, olive-skinned tench or the golden dinner-plate that is a rudd are every bit as worthy of our understanding and protection as is the cormorant itself.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BAILEY
(Author, *Tales from the Riverbank*),
Orchard House, Guntun Park,
Hanworth, Norwich, Norfolk.

From Mr Gordon Bird

Sir, Your leading article today highlighted the hostility of Britain's freshwater anglers to our native cormorant, which has moved inland in increasing numbers to feed on prized fisheries. But the real culprits are these anglers' professional relatives, the deep-sea trawlermen who, with single catches exceeding 60 tonnes, are the prime cause of the ocean's dwindling harvest and the cormorant's inland retreat.

Unless more of these mariners can be persuaded to hang up their nets, the prospects for cormorants and all other seafood diners looks bleak.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BIRD,
3 The Holme, 21 Post Street,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire,
June 5.

Good sports

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, Has anybody perfected a TV control unit that deletes the idiots' chorus from Test match transmissions? If so, please will they send me details. Alternatively, the producers could tone down the crowd "atmosphere" so that those of us who prefer to watch the game for its finer points can do so without the endless chanting that spoils it for us.

Producers should also try to show us opponents applauding players who reach centuries. Good sportsmanship is still around, but TV seems to prefer to broadcast the baying masses rather than the very important good example of true sportsmen appreciating the efforts of their opponents.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. GREGORY,
18 The Avenue,
Basford, Newcastle, Staffordshire,
June 9.

From Mr Marcel Berenblut

Sir, Sitting in synagogue on Saturday, I was struggling to keep my thoughts away from events at Edgbaston and concentrate on a somewhat dull reading from the Bible (I Numbers i-iv, 20).

I was rewarded for my efforts just seven verses from the end, when I encountered the instruction (iv, 13) "And they shall take away the ashes . . .".

Yours faithfully,
MARCEL BERENBLUT,
53 Corringham Road,
Wembley Park, Middlesex,
June 9.

Sales patter

From Mr Gordon Proud

Sir, Having endured a long period during which retailers' assistants and waiters have replaced the words "Thank you" with "Cheers", I find that many are now endorsing one's purchase with "Good choice". Inevitably, this proves not to be the case.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON PROUD,
18 Barton Farm, Cerne Abbas, Dorset,
June 9.

Worried to death

From Dr John Edmunds

Sir, "Mad sheep" fears prompt slaughter" (today's headline). Well, wouldn't you?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EDMUNDS,
19 Pembroke Crescent, Wil,
June 6.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 9: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Association for Science Education, this evening attended a reception for Young Entrepreneurs at St James's Palace.

June 9: The Duke of York took morning opening of the new building of the First Annual Conference at the Exchange, Morrison Street, Edinburgh, and was received by Councillor Brian Fallon (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh). Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, this morning visited the new Campus of Napier University in Craighouse Road, Edinburgh.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Royal and Company and opened the new extension to the garden centre at Melville Nursery, Lasswade, and was re-

ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian (Captain George Burnett).

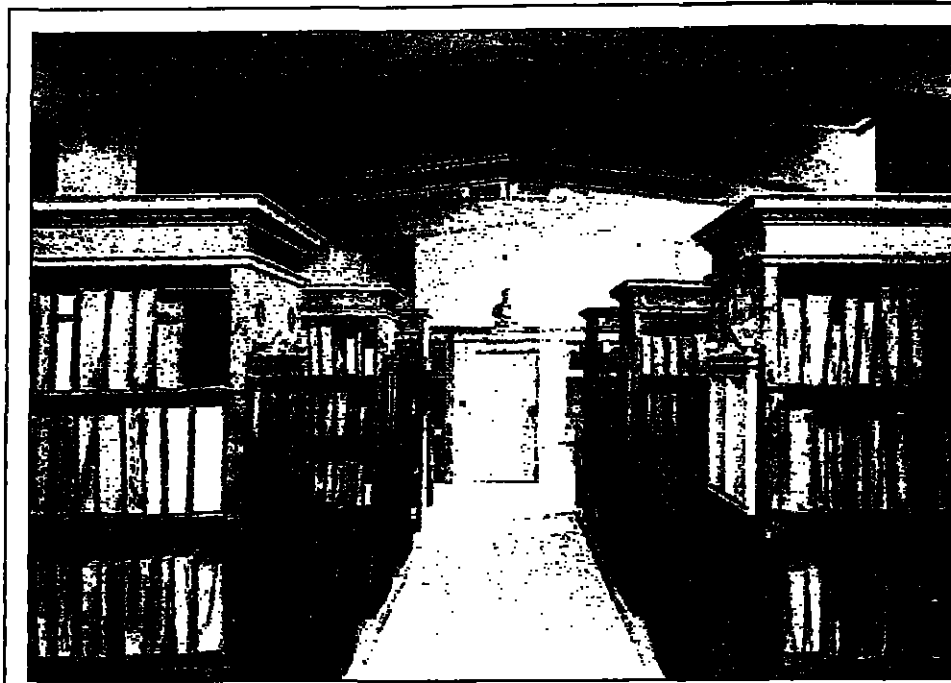
Her Royal Highness, Patron, Citizens Advice Scotland, later visited Dalkeith and District Citizens Advice Centre, 8 Burchill Street, Dalkeith, and was received by Major John Callender (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 9: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning visited Duchy Farms in Cornwall. His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's new Lifeboat Station at Rock, Cornwall.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 9: The Duke of Gloucester as Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this afternoon received Sir Colin Murray on relinquishing his appointment as Secretary-General and Sir Christopher MacRae on assuming the appointment.

The Queen has been pleased to make the following appointments: Gentleman Usher, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Birdwood; Extra Gentleman Usher, Major Nigel Chamberlayne-Macdonald.

The Duke of Edinburgh celebrates his 70th birthday today.



Hereford's medieval Chained Library, now contained inside a new building, below

Chained Library building wins prize

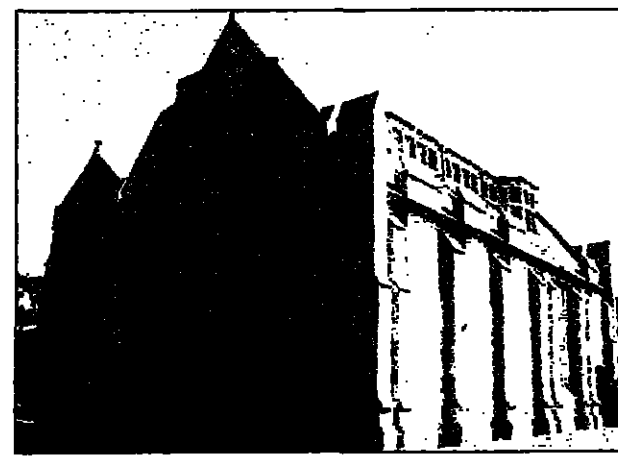
By Robin Young

THE new cathedral library at Hereford built to incorporate the medieval Chained Library, the cathedral archive and the priceless Mappa Mundi has been named as building of the year.

The judges of the Royal Fine Art Commission/Brickwork Award described the building, the work of Whitfield Partners, the architectural firm headed by Sir William Whitfield, as masterly. The partnership is currently working on a similar project at Canterbury.

The judges included Lord St John of Fawley, the commission's chairman, Richard Dunn, executive director of News International Television, the broadcaster Lloyd Grossman, the architect Ian Ritchie, and Professor Margaret MacKeith, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Central Lancashire.

In a programme about the awards shown last night on Sky Television the judges said that the subtle details of the building distinguished it as late 20th century work, while matching, and even surpassing, Victorian ad-



Interior view of the new building housing the Hereford's medieval Chained Library.

ditions to the cathedral.

Lord St John, introducing the awards, said: "We now have some of the finest architects in the world who are British and working here in Britain and elsewhere... The sadness is that we do not yet realise how great our contribution to architecture is."

From more than 40 entries the judges had shortlisted seven buildings, three of which won special awards. In a specialist category for restoration and conservation projects, the resuscitation of Little Britain Street near Barts Hospital and St Paul's won an award for GMA Architects.

The Oxo Tower Wharf, on the South Bank of the Thames, won the prize in the Urban Regeneration category for the architects Lifschutz Davidson. The tower now houses workshops, retail units, social housing, and a luxury restaurant, brasserie

and café with superb views.

A special award in memory of Popli Khalat-Bart, who worked for British Sky Broadcasting from 1991 until her death in 1995 at the age of 29, went to the Stephen Hawking Special Educational Needs School in Tower Hamlets, east London, by the architects Haverstock Associates. The building was commended for its light, open, brightly colourful and welcoming character.

The other buildings shortlisted were:

The Meadowbank Club built for Cable & Wireless in Twickenham by MacCormac Jamieson, Pritchard & Number 5 The Square, Stockley Park, at Uxbridge, west London, office development by Arup Associates; Avonbank Gardens public lavatories in Stratford upon Avon, by Michael Reardon & Associates; and the new headquarters building for Mathew Gloag & Son Ltd, the whisky distillers, near Perth, by the architects BDP of Glasgow.

Lord Todd

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Todd will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Wednesday, July 16, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to The Rector's Secretary, Room 16, 1 Linde Close, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a first-class stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from July 7.

Lord and Lady Wedgwood

Lord and Lady Wedgwood regret they were unable to attend the memorial service for Dame Veronica Wedgwood, OBE, on June 4.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Mr Alan Lee Williams, chairman of the Transport on Water Association, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the discussion circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr T.S. Lansley presided.

Building awards

Lord St John of Fawley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, and Mr Sam Chisholm, Chief Executive and Managing Director of British Sky Broadcasting Limited, presided at the presentation of the Royal Fine Art Commission/Brickwork Award Building of the Year Awards at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, June 9.

Lord Rothschild, Chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, presented the award to the Dean of Hereford Cathedral for the winning building, the Chained Library, which also houses the Mappa Mundi. He also presented certificates for Restoration and Conservation to Little Britain, London ECL, and for Urban Regeneration to the Oxo Tower Wharf, London SE1. Miss Selma Scott presented a special award in memory of Popli Khalat-Bart, to the Stephen Hawking Special Educational Needs School at Tower Hamlets, London E14.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and both Houses of Parliament were present at a reception held in the River Room afterwards.

King's College Junior School

The Governors of King's College School, Wimbledon, are pleased to announce the appointment as Headmaster, the Junior School, of Mr John Evans, who will succeed the present Headmaster, Mr Colin Holloway, when the latter retires in the summer of 1998. Mr Evans, who is 49, is at present Senior Master at King's College School.

University news

Rory Guy Elliott (Classics), formerly of St Paul's School, London, has been elected to an Exhibition at Oriel College, Oxford.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.C.M.B. Peto and Miss L.L. Balck-Foot
The engagement is announced between Henry Christopher Morton Pampfield, eldest son of Sir Michael Peto, of Kirkcubbin, Northumberland, and of Mrs Northumberland, and of Mrs Charles Worthington, of North Molton, Devon, and Louise Imogen, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Balck-Foot, of Stockcross, Berkshire.

Mr J.H. Thomas and Miss D.M. Roles
The engagement is announced between John Henry Thomas, youngest son of Sir Jeremy and Lady Thomas, of East Lavant, Sussex, and Deborah Macbean, younger daughter of Dr Nick and Dr Wendy Roles, of Chobham, Surrey.

Mr C. Fox and Miss A.C. Le Deunff
The engagement is announced between Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Fox, of Lacock, Wiltshire, and Anne Catherine, daughter of Dr and Mrs René Le Deunff, of Gourin, Brittany.

Mr W.P. Goodall and Miss A.L. Ward
The engagement is announced between William Peter, son of Mr John Goodall, of Amesbury, and the late Mrs Joan Goodall, and Alice Isabel, daughter of Dr Anthony Ward, of Womersley, and Mrs Linda Ward, of Capel, Surrey.

Mr R.J. King and Miss C.A. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Jameson, son of Mr Richard King, of Somerset, and Mrs Janet Lougee, of Farthingham, Northamptonshire, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of the late Mr John M.F. Greenwood, of Rotherfield, East Sussex.

Mr R.F. Smart and Miss S.A. Brown
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Smart, of Worsstead, Norfolk, and Shute, Devon, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Brown, of Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr B. Viner and Mrs S. Glass
The engagement is announced between Brian Viner, of Sheffield, and Susan Glass, of Kingston on Thames.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Francis Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender", London, 1688; Gustave Courbet, painter, Ornans, France, 1819; Frederick (Fritz) Loewe, composer, Vienna, 1901; Sir Terence Rattigan, dramatist, London, 1911; Judy Garland, film star, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, 1922.

DEATHS: King George I, reigned 1714-27, Osnabrück, Germany, 1727; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Marseille, 1836; Pierre Loti,

Mr N.D.P. Thwaites and Miss S.C. Evans
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Thwaites, of Bedford, Warwickshire, and Samantha Cheryl, daughter of Mr Arthur Evans, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Mrs Stephanie Evans, of Frensham Heights, Surrey.

Mr J.G. White and Miss J.H. Crawford
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John White, of Bratton, North Yorkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Crawford, of Altrincham, Cheshire.

Mr J.M. Worley and Miss C.I. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Mark, only son of Mrs E. Worley, of Golear, Yorkshire, and elder son of Mr M. Worley, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Christina Isabel, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Jackson, of Barton, Cambridge.

Marriages

Mr P.D. Bedford and Miss J.E. Stevens
The marriage took place on Saturday, at the Cathedral of St Paul the Baptist, Norwich, of Mr Paul Bedford, only son of Mr and Mrs David Bedford, of Northampton, and Miss Joanne Stevens, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stevens, of Norwich.

Mr C.B. Braidwaite and Miss L.J. Job
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 7, at Aderbury Church, Oxfordshire, of Mr Christopher Braidwaite, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Braidwaite, of Clapham Common, to Miss Laura Job, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Job, of Aderbury. The Rev John Holbrook and Canon John Oates, of St Bride's Fleet Street, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Sarah Rosser, Jessica Brunner-Ellis and Hannah Schiel. Mr Colin Heber-Percy was best man.

A reception was held at The Old Vicarage.

novelist, Hendaye, France, 1923; Giacomo Mancini, anti-Fascist, murdered, Rome, 1924; Antonio Gaudi, architect, Barcelona, 1926; Frederick Delius, composer, Grez-sur-Loing, 1934; Spencer Tracy, actor, 1967.

Fourteen women and five men were hanged at the end of the witch-hunt trials, Salem, 1692.

The first Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race took place, 1829.

Wagner's opera, *Tristan and Isolde*, was first performed in Munich, 1865.

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Do good, Lord, to the good, to those who are upright in heart. But those who turn aside into crooked ways may the Lord make them the way of evildoers. Psalm 125: 4-5

BIRTHS

ASHANI - On June 5th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

ATKINSON - On June 5th at the Portland Hospital, to Gillian and John, a daughter, Emily.

ATY - On June 3rd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

BENNETT - On June 7th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

BULLIVANT - On June 5th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

CLEGG - On June 6th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

CLOVER - On June 2nd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

COX - On June 4th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

COZENS - On June 3rd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

FARR - On June 6th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

FLINT WOOD - On May 23rd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

HARRIS - On June 3rd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

HARVEY - On June 7th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

HAYLEY - On June 5th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

HOWE - On May 28th, to Kate and Timothy, a daughter, Emma.

HUNT - On June 3rd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

JOSEPH - On June 7th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

LAW - On June 2nd at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

MARRAS - On June 6th at the Portland Hospital, to Shama and Nareesh, a daughter, Emma.

DEATHS

BRIDGE - On June 5th 1997, Wendy Sylvia, beloved wife of John, mother of John and Jeanette, grandmother of William, James, Sophie, Nathan and Ben. Funeral Service at the Portland Crematorium, Portland, on Thursday June 12th at 10.00am. Flowers or donations please to St. John's Church, 12th June at 12.00pm. Friends and family invited to attend the service at St. John's Church, 12th June at 12.00pm.

CASTLE - On June 6th 1997, Catherine Theresa "TIP" (nee Ellis) aged 91 years. Loving mother of Elizabeth and Geoffrey, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, Sussex, on Friday June 13th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to St. John's Church, 12th June at 12.00pm. Friends and family invited to attend the service at St. John's Church, 12th June at 12.00pm.

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MARRIAGES

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OBITUARIES

MAGDA GABOR



Left to right, Magda, Jolie, Eva and Zsa Zsa Gabor in the family Palm Springs jewellery salon

Magda Gabor, former actress and businesswoman, died in Rancho Mirage, California, on June 6 aged 78. She was born in Budapest in 1919.

The most retiring of the three Gabor sisters — if that term is appropriate to any member of a family of such stridently audible and visible propensities — Magda had the briefest of careers as an actress. She otherwise concentrated her energies on the jewellery boutiques she owned in Palm Springs and Miami, as well as in Europe. Like her sisters she also married prolifically, her final tally of six weddings outdoing that of her late youngest sister Eva, but falling short of the eight marriages entered into to date by Zsa Zsa.

The daughter of a Hungarian jeweller, Vilmos Gabor, and his wife Jolie, she was, like her sisters, the beneficiary of the sheer willpower of a mother who mapped out careers of great élan for all her daughters.

and then singlemindedly executed her gameplan. To equip her daughters for the brilliant marriages she expected them to make (she always felt that her own marriage had brought her down in the world) she sent them to the best schools in Europe. There they learnt to ride, play tennis, play the piano, and to acquire the kind of social polish, charm and, above all, blonde-dressed beauty which naturally partners diamonds.

After leaving her finishing school in Lausanne, Magda made the first of her marriages, to an RAF pilot. But this was not at all what Mama Jolie had in mind and the family gravitated to Hollywood in her wake in the 1930s. Her second and third marriages were to New York lawyers and the fourth was to a Hungarian nobleman.

Marriage No 5 was to the British-born actor George Sanders (aka "the cad" through his playing of such film roles). Sanders had already married into the Gabor clan since a previous trip to the register office had been with

Magda's sister Zsa Zsa. Magda's tilt at marriage to Sanders was to last far less long than Zsa Zsa's and within two months the couple were citing "irreconcilable differences" as they moved towards an annulment in the California courts.

One of the stumbling blocks was, apparently, that Magda's appetite for parties was considerable greater than that of her exasperated spouse; indeed, he died not long after their divorce.

In the 1950s Magda Gabor had acted briefly on radio with her mother, and in 1953 the three sisters had a stage act called *This Is Our Life* at the Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas. *This Is Our Life* featured the Gabor girls singing and dancing as well as having something of the nature of a chat show.

To the surprise of the critics, who had imagined it was to be a tiresome exhibition of sisterly love conducted in the famously fractured Hungarian English which they had evolved as part of their armoury of charms, the show

was surprisingly good, and Magda, who was far less well-known at that time than her siblings, was adjudged to have carried it.

Her business acumen was also useful to the enterprise since it was she who arranged what was generally regarded as being an extremely lucrative contract. The show had from the outset been a high-risk venture, since it pitted the Gabor girls against Marlene Dietrich, then the top Las Vegas nightclub act.

But, apart from that episode, and a flirtation with television, acting did not really appeal to Magda. Her forte was the string of jewellery boutiques she operated with her mother in New York, Palm Beach, Paris and London.

After the breakdown of her marriage to George Sanders she married, in 1972, a Hungarian economic consultant. He predeceased her. There were no children of any of her marriages.

Eva Gabor died in 1995. Her mother Jolie died in April aged 97, and only her sister Zsa Zsa survives.

TOM TAYLOR



Thomas Taylor, deputy principal of Henley Management College, died of cancer on May 25 aged 60. He was born on October 6, 1936.

TOM TAYLOR was a taxman, a manager of the effects of high marginal taxes, and a management specialist who, as a former civil servant, was sceptical of interference by the cumbersome machinery of government.

His career spanned two different worlds. As a tax inspector on secondment to Somerset House, he was one of the architects of VAT, the reform of corporation tax and an early advocate (in the late 1960s) of reduced higher rates of marginal tax, which he saw as self-defeating. In 1970 he moved to the Henley Management College (then the Administrative Staff College) of which he was later to become deputy principal.

Thomas Cecil Leonard Taylor was born in Buckingham, the elder son of Leonard and Emily Taylor. His father was a pharmacist and his mother the daughter of a builder who served as Mayor of the town.

He was educated at Magdalen College School, Brackley, the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, and New College, Oxford, where he read Modern History. From Oxford he joined the Civil Service, opting, unusually, for a place in the Inland Revenue's tax inspectorate, because at university he had been fascinated by 19th-century tax policy.

The seven years he spent in the tax inspectorate were the minimum to secure an appointment as a district inspector of taxes, though in the event he occupied such post for only a few months. The Board of Inland Revenue had a different career path in mind for him, so he passed into the administrative class as a principal in the board's secretaries' office.

Within a year he was deeply involved in a series of major tax reforms. Three areas of the work made an impact on Whitehall. First, there was a brief encounter with the embryonic Value Added Tax, before the decision was made to opt instead for a system easier for Customs and Excise to handle. Second, but of much greater importance, was the major reform of corporation tax; and third was the evaluation of the advantages

and disadvantages of a wealth tax. It was intellectually challenging work, made more fascinating by the ideas streaming from the special advisers to the successive Chancellors of the Exchequer.

One controversial issue was the effect of very high marginal rates of income tax. Did they or did they not have adverse economic consequences? Ministers were usually advised that academic research firmly supported the view that high marginal rates had very little effect on work incentives. But Taylor believed that this took too little account of managers' actual behaviour. He felt that there were significant potential gains to be won from a major reform of the higher rate system. He was increasingly convinced that the Treasury and other government departments needed to know more

about management practices.

During this period, the Inland Revenue took a decision which Taylor then on regarded as one of the turning points of his life. This was to send him on the 11-week general management course at the Administrative Staff College, Henley-on-Thames.

He came to see this as crucial because it was at Henley that he discovered an interest in management and management development that could never be fully satisfied within the Civil Service. From then on, he found his frustration with the organisational deficiencies of a large government department increasingly hard to bear.

Abandoning his career in taxation was not an easy decision, but fate stepped in. After a chance encounter on Waterloo Bridge, Taylor's dilemma was solved when the

principal of the Henley college, J. P. Martin-Bates, telephoned him one evening to see whether he would be interested in a one or possibly two-year appointment.

The work was to be primarily in the development of a course on managerial finance, to complement the work being done by the college on corporate finance and the raising of capital. Taylor accepted, and two years later his position became permanent.

At the college he devised and taught a number of courses in managerial finance, financial planning and control. The subjects were new in management schools, and so was his approach. Within a short time, he had taken over as director of studies of the major programmes, and a few years later he became deputy principal. He retired in 1986 because of failing health.

Many middle managers on Henley courses were keen to fathom what they saw as the mysteries of finance and accounting. Taylor gave them the confidence to challenge the accountancy profession, which he thought held too much power in British industry.

He was also sceptical about the effectiveness of government involvement in industry, long before this view became the orthodoxy in the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher. This derived from his observations of the limited effectiveness of government at first hand, before he joined the college.

As deputy principal, in charge of the college's finances, he had the opportunity to practise what he preached. He was keen on detail and control, but only when it was helpful in making decisions and did not unduly constrain creativity. He believed that staff are most valuable when managed on a loose rein, and his firm grasp of facts and figures was balanced by a sensitivity to the views and feelings of others.

Students, managers and the Henley faculty all relied on his wise counsel. In all that he did he showed clear-headed competence, analytical ability, calmness and dignity.

His family was the centre of his life, and he gained strength from their support. He is survived by his wife Doreen, whom he married in 1967, and by their two sons.

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INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY

ENTERPRISE
The one-man dealer who plays his big cards right
PAGE 33

LAW
Is the DIY approach to cases always for the best?
PAGES 39-43

SPORT
The British runner relying on the appliance of science
PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
TUESDAY JUNE 10 1997

Griffiths plans to outlaw gazump tactics

By Sarah Cunningham and Sara McConnell

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, plans to stop gazumping in Britain by extending the way of buying houses used in Scotland.

Mr Griffiths, MP for Edinburgh South, told *The Times* yesterday: "Gazumping isn't a problem in Scotland and it would be nice if we had a similar system down here." Gazumping has re-emerged during the present housing boom, leading to offers for property above the level agreed with another buyer. The gazumped purchaser still has to pay solicitors' and surveyors' bills.

Mr Griffiths said that major changes to the law in England and Wales would be needed and would take a considerable time to put through.

This week estate agents will be asked to sign up to an extended ombudsman scheme, which would cover nearly three quarters of firms and provide an independent complaints procedure for most homebuyers and sellers. The scheme could be in force by September as long as at least 1,000 agencies respond to the call from the National Association of Estate Agents, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

The existing ombudsman scheme only covers an estimated 3,000 firms that are part of large corporate chains.

Mr Griffiths is planning other moves to defend consumer interests. He has asked the Office of Fair Trading to take another look at petrol pricing with a view to opening an inquiry. It will be looking at "whether the independent retailers are being squeezed out of the market by [major operators] keeping prices low".

He is also looking for ways of preventing consumers from having to pay more at home for some goods, such as jeans, than they would abroad.

Commentary, page 29



Reflecting on Stansted: Sir John Egan is committed to spending more money at the Essex airport after the huge investment on Heathrow's Terminal 5

Markets drop on fear of EMU collapse

By Alasdair Murray

THE growing political crisis over monetary union spread over European markets yesterday, with traders becoming increasingly nervous that the single currency project is on the verge of collapsing.

All the main stock markets, except London, suffered sharp falls while the mark made strong gains against most European currencies.

European stock markets plunged after Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the new French Finance Minister, told EU ministers in Luxembourg that the French Government wanted more time to examine the single currency stability pact.

Dealers said that M Strauss-Kahn's comments increased the chance of a delay to the start date for EMU and suggested that the new socialist French Government is at odds with Germany over single currency policy.

In Frankfurt the Dax index closed down 27.86 points at 3,667.43, having started the day up on the back of gains on Wall Street. The CAC-40 index in Paris also finished 33.05 points lower at 2,686.20, while in Milan, the MIBTEL closed down 112 points at 12,165.

But the EMU uncertainty helped the mark to regain some of the ground it has lost in recent weeks over fears that Europe is heading towards a "soft" single currency. The German currency gained three tenths against the French franc, closing at FF3.3797 and rose from L986.0 to L987.1 against the Italian lira. The mark also made strong gains against the dollar and the pound, with sterling closing down over 2 pence at DM2.7915.

The London stock market was largely insulated from the latest bout of EMU turmoil as traders continued to take their

cue from a rising Wall Street. The FT-SE 100 closed up 41.7 points at 4,686.7, with the market unaffected by the latest set of strong economic data.

Manufacturing output grew by 0.6 per cent in April, taking the annual rate to 2.3 per cent — the largest rise for nearly two years. Industrial output also bounced back, after three consecutive monthly declines, to show growth of 1.2 per cent.

Economists said the figures showed that the strong domestic economy was helping manufacturers to offset the negative impact of the strong pound on exports. But there are still few signs of inflationary pressures in the manufacturing sector, with factory-gate prices rising just 0.1 per cent in May, taking the annual rate of increase to 1.1 per cent.

Input prices jumped by 0.6 per cent because of a big increase in crude oil prices, but the annual rate showed another fall of 9.1 per cent.

Further evidence of the strength of the domestic economy emerges in the British Retail Consortium sales figures for May, out today. The value of retail sales rose by 4.8 per cent, against 4.1 per cent in April. But the growth in sales is running at a lower level than in May last year, when

sales increased by 6.2 per cent, and the Consortium said there was little sign of a high street boom prompted by building society windfall payments.

The June Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey of fund managers showed institutional investors looking to reduce exposure to the UK stock market as interest rate rises and the strong pound are predicted to take their toll on corporate profitability. But UK fund managers have become keen buyers of gilts after the granting of operational independence to the Bank of England.

Commentary, page 29

Norwich subscribers face share delay

By Marianne Curphey

NORWICH UNION members who apply for extra shares in the insurer's imminent flotation will receive their share certificates a week later than institutions and other members.

If the price falls in the first five days of trading, members may lose the benefit of their 25p-a-share discount to the

institutional price. Brokers say that many investors plan to sell quickly for a profit and that the price may be volatile in the first few days.

The period for applying for shares in the flotation, on Monday, ends at 2pm today. Brokers say the issue is several times oversubscribed, with reports of many private investors asking for the top allocation of £100,000 of

shares, and some taking out loans or remortgaging their homes to find the funds.

Members who opted for their free windfall shares and no extra allocation will receive share certificates this Friday or Saturday, before dealing opens, on Monday.

Investors applying for extra shares will not receive certificates until Friday, June 20, and possibly not until Monday, June 23, a week after dealing starts. At that time, they will also receive confirmation of their allocation and any refund cheque.

An NU spokeswoman said: "Information about the delay is in the mini-prospectus and is unavoidable because of the administrative complexities of sending out share certificates to three million members."

BAA forecast traffic growth of more than 5 per cent in the current year after last year's 4.6 per cent advance which helped to raise revenues 9.6 per cent, including an 11 per cent rise in net retail income. BAA is lifting the dividend for the year by 10 per cent to 12.4p after pre-excepted earnings of 32p (25p).

Tempus, page 30

Abbey forced to apologise

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL, the high street bank, has been forced to apologise to the London Stock Exchange over potentially price-sensitive remarks made by a senior director about possible merger talks with NatWest.

Abbey National, headed by Peter Birch, admitted last week that preliminary merger talks between the two banks had been held this year but that Abbey National had pulled out. The unnamed director said of the NatWest deal: "We are

definitely not interested in talking to them."

A spokesman for Abbey National last night said: "We should not have been quite so definite in our public statement without prior Stock Exchange approval or an announcement through the exchange. Our company secretary has now written to the Stock Exchange to say that we are deeply sorry and that it will not happen again."

The Stock Exchange said: "We study any public announcements made in the press as a matter of course. This has been done in the

latest instance and the matter is now closed."

The collapse of merger talks between NatWest and Abbey National has failed to dampen market expectations that they may overcome their differences. The main opposition to the deal appears to come from the Abbey board, although Mr Birch, who retires next year, is believed to be keen to pull off one more big deal. NatWest shares closed up 35p at 816p.

Commentary, page 29
Markets, page 29

Granada confirms talks

By Jon Ashworth

GRANADA yesterday confirmed that it is in talks to buy Yorkshire-Tees Television, maker of *Emmerdale* and *A Touch of Frost*, after a day of City speculation.

In a joint statement issued after the close of trading, the companies said they were in preliminary talks about Granada buying the shares in Yorkshire that it does not already own. Granada currently has 27 per cent of Yorkshire. It said the share price contained a significant bid premium. Takeover rules bar it from making a

bid for three months after that announcement — a period that ends on Friday.

Any offer for Yorkshire would require prior approval from the Takeover Panel. The suggested price represents a snub for Ward Thomas, chairman of Yorkshire, who has said that any bid for it would have to be at £17 a share or more to succeed.

Granada's ITV programmes include *Coronation Street*. The company bought London Weekend Television for £450 million three years ago.

Granada's share price rose by 52½p to £11.60 yesterday, against a peak of £13.15 in March and a low of 110p four years ago. Big potential winners include United News & Media, which has a 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire. United owns *The Express* and the Meridian and Anglia ITV franchises.

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Receiver appointed at Global

The Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator to Global Foreign Exchange Corporation, a forex dealing firm that sought business from private investors. The appointment follows an investigation and subsequent legal action by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog.

The SIB alleged that Global, based in the City of London, was carrying on unauthorised investment business in the highly volatile foreign exchange markets. A formal application by Global to be regulated by the Securities and Investments Board, the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, was rejected in May.

Ideal progress

Fear of computer crashes among large businesses helped Ideal Hardware, the data back-up specialist, to return record profits last year. Sales of its tape back-up systems doubled in the year to May 3. Pre-tax profit was £9.6 million (£7.83 million) and earnings 29.9p (24.7p) a share. A second interim dividend of 3p is due on July 28. The company plans a third payout.

TOURIST RATES

Sweden Kr	13.41	12.38
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.29
Turkey Lira	244.199	225.649
USA \$	1.733	1.600

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Hyder warns windfall levy could harm investment plans

HYDER, the multi-utility, has given a warning that the proposed windfall tax could scupper discount schemes and environmental investment programmes. The water and electricity group reported a near doubling of its full-year profits yesterday.

Hyder said: "We seek fairness and appropriateness in the basis of application of the levy and in its coverage and believe it should be at a level where we would not be obliged to re-examine our discretionary and environmental investments and voluntary customer discounts within the water and sewerage business."

Hyder submitted comments on the tax to the Government, which is expected to give a response this week. Paul Twamley, finance director, said: "Discretionary rebates ... may become vulnerable in the event that the windfall tax was too onerous."

Graham Hawker, chief executive, said that the simplest way of calculating the tax would be to base it on published information such as turnover or operating profit.

Hyder, which was formed when Welsh Water took over South Wales Electricity last year, said that its move had been "a great success". It claimed to have saved a total of £11.5 million by integrating the two utilities.

In the first full-year results since the takeover, pre-tax profits increased to £208 mil-



Graham Hawker, chief executive, visiting Hyder's new customer centre

lion from £113 million. In the twelve months to March 31, earnings per share went up to 118.6p from 68.8p. The total dividend was lifted from 38.7p to 43.9p. The final dividend,

Leakage levels are said to have been reduced significantly to below the national average and are on course to meet the regulator's target of reduction by one third in the ten years to 2005.

Performance at the electricity division was more spectacular than at the water division. Of the total turnover of £1.14 billion, up from £651 million, electricity accounted for £520 million, up from £102 million, while water only increased from £420 million to £424 million.

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up from 26.1p to 29.3p, will be paid on October 6.

Mr Twamley said staffing levels had fallen to 5,050 from 5,490 over the year and were expected to reach 4,590 by 1999 under existing cost-cutting plans. "What we're trying to do now is to see whether there is a case for putting some of the operational activities together," he said. "I believe there is, in which case we will have another tranche of cost savings and merger savings coming through in the next couple of years. That will include job cuts."

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ruling due on £46m Grid funds appeal

A DECISION is expected today on a High Court appeal concerning a £46 million pension fund surplus that could have far-reaching implications for the electricity industry. National Grid has asked the High Court to overturn a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman, who ordered the company to repay the £46 million into its pension scheme. If the appeal fails, it could cost the privatised electricity industry £1 billion-plus and benefit 200,000 former workers.

In February, Julian Farrand, the Ombudsman, ruled that National Grid was wrong to divert the surplus to pay for redundancies and early retirement and ordered the company to reimburse its scheme. National Grid appealed, saying it believed that valuation of the surplus was properly made. The issue could affect the 21 privatised electricity companies and other industries operating pension schemes.

Hickson chief to leave

MIKE FEARFIELD is stepping down as managing director of the performance chemicals division of Hickson International and is expected to be paid £180,000 compensation for loss of office. His job disappeared after the troubled business sold most of the operations he ran. Mr Fearfield had a two-year contract worth £120,000 a year, but a spokesman said there would be "mitigation" in the settlement. Hickson has had a shake-up since the appointment of David Wilbraham as chief executive last year.

Trealt profits fall

TREATT, the fragrances and oils group, paid Norman Talbot, its former finance director, £221,000 as compensation for loss of office after he left by mutual agreement last November. Trealt's pre-tax profits for the half year to March 31 fell from £1.31 million to £267,000. Geoffrey Bovill, Trealt's chairman, is pessimistic about the current year because of problems affecting a large customer and a weak performance in the first three months of this year. Earnings per share fell from 9.19p to 1.85p and the dividend is held at 1.9p.

AIT plans full listing

AIT GROUP, the software company that specialises in the retail financial services sector, plans to seek a full listing on the stock market this year. The company, founded in 1986, uses its TSS software system as the basis for bespoke applications to integrate existing mainframe systems with diverse client-server technologies. In the year to March 31, 1996 the company earned pre-tax profits of £1.1 million on revenues of £7.5 million, compared with £500,000 and £4.2 million respectively in the preceding 12 months.

Critchley sales improve

CRITCHLEY GROUP, whose shares slid from 920p in January to just below 600p, sought to reassure investors yesterday by claiming success in mitigating the adverse impact of the strong pound by cutting costs and sourcing materials overseas. The manufacturer of electrical-cable accessories reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.5 million for the year to March 31 on sales up 6 per cent, to £45.9 million. A final dividend of 8.5p a share makes a total of 12.5p, an increase of 15 per cent. The shares rose 22½p to 612½p.

Four deny plotting goldmine fraud

By A CORRESPONDENT

A DIRECTOR of Butte Mining, a goldmining company, "lined his pockets" with shares worth "many millions of pounds" by cheating its investors, many them pensioners, a jury was told at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Clive Smith, 50, was the "moving spirit" behind Butte Mining, in which investors were encouraged to buy shares at its flotation in 1987 and in a fund-raising a year later. However, the value of precious metals and minerals in an old-established mine at Butte, Montana, were deliberately inflated, said Douglas Day, opening for the prosecution.

Mr Smith was "enthusiastically helped" by three other

businessmen, Herbert Bichan, 53, Kenneth Clews, 48, and John Clarke, 50, the prosecution alleged.

The men also failed to disclose, when the company was floated, that they expected to benefit from the £60 million raised from investors. It was alleged. In the prospectus for potential investors, a "golden image" of the company had been presented. The mine resources were estimated to realise a value of £292 million, but that was a gross exaggeration, the court was told.

Mr Smith, Mr Clews, Mr Bichan and Mr Clarke deny two charges of conspiracy to defraud. The trial was adjourned until today.

Pearson pulls out of US magazine bid

PEARSON, the publisher of the Financial Times, has pulled out of the \$200 million battle to buy Institutional Investor, the US financial magazine (Jason Nissé writes).

The UK group dropped the bid because it could not justify the high price that Institutional Investor was expected to command.

Pearson is keen to expand its financial publishing interests worldwide and has joined a consortium attempting to take over the Australian Financial Review, part of the John Fairfax group of newspapers, which also includes the Melbourne Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.

Bankers to share \$541m cash fund

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE top 60 partners and senior executives of a private San Francisco investment bank are to share in a \$541 million cash pot after being acquired by BankAmerica Corporation, the third largest bank in the United States.

The multimillion-dollar deal to buy Robertson Stephens, a private investment banking and management firm, is based on the retention of more than 60 key officers for at least three to four years after the company becomes part of BankAmerica.

The partners at Robertson Stephens, which last year completed 125 equity offerings valued at \$8.6 billion, will receive an initial payment

worth \$245 million. A further \$225 million will be paid as "compensation" over three years to those managing directors who stay.

The remaining \$70 million will comprise a "retention" pool to be paid as further compensation over four years to certain managing directors and other key employees who stay with the enlarged BankAmerica group.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997			
Revenue	£1,373m	up 9.6%	
Operating profit	£491m	up 10.8%	
Profit before tax and exceptional items	£444m	up 10.2%	
Profit before tax*	£407m	down 2.6%	
Earnings per share before exceptional items	32.0p	up 10.3%	
Total dividend	12.4p	up 10.2%	
UK Passenger numbers	98.0m	up 4.6%	

*Profit before tax was affected by a re-consideration of BAA's policy on capitalisation of interest.

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Fat chance for pear-shaped EMU



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

I was bad luck for Chancellor Gordon Brown yesterday. There he was in statesman-like mode, telling his European colleagues that their task was to cut red tape and create jobs, while all around him was disarray.

As the French and Germans scrapped over the rules for monetary union, the Chancellor must have been pondering whether this was a club he really wanted to join.

It was inevitable that the political upheavals in the two countries which have driven EMU must soon spill over into what ever European city was playing host to the travelling circus of ministers that flits around the Continent. Yesterday, it did and lucky Luxembourg felt the fallout.

The markets read it as the surest sign yet that the advent of the single currency will be delayed. The currency traders on whom Barclays' chief executive, Martin Taylor, recently called to do what the politicians should be doing, and bring about an early post-pone to the onset of EMU, began to do his bidding as they bet on the mark against the franc.

Chancellor Kohl, having been subjected to unimaginable humiliation by the Bundesbank in striving for his single currency ambitions, is not yet prepared to admit he is beaten. But, in asking for a delay in signing the ironically entitled "stability pact", the newly elected left

wingers in France have made it quite clear that they do not share Chancellor Kohl's view that EMU is an imperative.

And neither is it. Chancellor Kohl is scrambling around in undignified fashion trying to find ways of squeezing into a tight corset—and who would find that more uncomfortable than the corpulent Kohl. Having failed with the ploy of revaluing gold reserves, he is now hoping that selling government-owned property might help to produce a more flattering set of figures. But this is merely disguising the problem: the underlying shape will remain the same.

If the German leader could swallow his pride, he would call for a delay in the rush toward EMU, and our own Government should back him. Then they could sensibly begin to pursue some of the ideas of which Mr Brown spoke yesterday.

There is scope to develop the single market in Europe, and British business would benefit from it. Those siren voices in industry which were once so loud in their demands for a single currency have quietened.

The latest figures on manufacturing output show that our exporters are flourishing, despite

their regular squeals over the strength of sterling. Their profit margins may be feeling the pinch but they are not evaporating.

Uncertainty is far more debilitating to industry than the lack of a European currency. The current fiasco of when and how the EMU will land must now be brought to a halt. Then Chancellor Brown and his Euro-colleagues can concentrate on cutting red tape rather than tangling it.

Minister winning campaign meddles

Nigel Griffiths, the endearingly enthusiastic Consumer Affairs Minister, could barely contain his excitement yesterday as he listed the areas in which he intends to meddle.

First of all comes the extraordinary process which, in England, takes the place of the

straightforward transaction that buying and selling a house should be. Quite rightly, Mr Griffiths wants to put a stop to gouging. In any other sphere if buyer and seller reach agreement then a verbal contract is thought to have been established. Only in the vitally important area of home-buying is it open to the vendor to decide he can do better by ditching one purchaser in favour of another.

Mr Griffiths may be biased in his belief that importing the Scottish system would deal with the problem—like the Chancellor, he heads from over the border. There may be other solutions that could work as well but any of them would require the commitment of the nation's estate agents.

It would be cynical to remark that appealing to the better nature of these people may not be enough to bring an end to sharp practice in the property world, but no doubt some will feel that

way. But while we wait for Mr Griffiths to legislate for change, there is comfort to be had from the fact that the agents are getting together to provide an ombudsman service for aggrieved customers. What a well-timed gesture.

Mr Griffiths's next target is petrol retailers. He is to ask the Office of Fair Trading to consider launching an inquiry into petrol retailing in Britain. John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, is likely to interpret this as a request he cannot refuse—after all, he has just had the President of the Board of Trade show him who is boss in the competition business by referring to the Monopolies Commission a deal he had waved through.

But his reasoning in this instance is less easy to define. Petrol stations have been closing at a phenomenal rate as the competition has raged across the forecourts. The Esso price watch led the way and supermarkets

plunged in to offer car drivers the best possible prices. The plucky company, Frost, lost 40 per cent of its sales volume last year as it refused to compete on price alone. Market forces have been working hard for the consumer in the petrol retailing business. If Mr Griffiths does not like it, then the omens are not good for business generally.

The right formula for a flotation?

A company is planning to float on the stock market, valued at a good seven-and-a-half times last year's turnover, buoyed by the prospects from pay-per-view TV. Sounds familiar. You could be forgiven for thinking this was a football float before realism set in during the spring. It is actually Formula One which, if it reaches its expected price tag of more than £1.5 billion, will be worth the same as four Manchester Uniteds. Is it worth that much?

If investors think it is, they should take a closer look. The business is run by an ageing mercurial entrepreneur, who is attempting to formalise many of the contracts that up until now

have been largely verbal. Formula One relies on the support of racing teams and track owners, which are waking up to the money that the middleman is making. This middleman pays himself £54 million and puts almost everything in his wife's name. He is also attempting to strike a pay-TV deal when there is a legal question mark about the competition issues surrounding the existing TV deals. Also the sponsors that made Formula One what it is are unhappy about pay-TV because it greatly reduces the audiences who watch the sport when compared with free TV channels.

Given this background it is no surprise the Salomon Brothers is finding it difficult to issue a timetable for the flotation of this business. The investment bank has made the City unhappy with its prevarication, and it will be an achievement to float it at all.

Sackcloth at Abbey

THE mea culpas from Abbey National yesterday related to the fact that the company spoke to the press before the Stock Exchange in ruling out a deal with NatWest. But shareholders may feel that they deserve something of an apology, if not a change of heart. A merger of the two businesses would bring benefits to both and the suggestion that Abbey chief executive, Peter Birch, was originally inclined towards the deal indicates as much.

Unigate and Dairy Crest return to talks

BY FRASER NELSON

UNIGATE, the St Ivel fresh foods and dairy products group, is understood to have reopened talks with Dairy Crest over the disposal of its £160 million cheese business.

City sources say that the company, which has long been trying to reduce its dependence on dairy products, has agreed to return to the negotiating table after Dairy Crest indicated it was prepared to pay a higher price for the cheeses.

Although neither company has confirmed it was ever in talks, it is widely understood in the City that they broke off earlier negotiations after Dairy Crest refused to pay more than £10 million for the business.

However, Dairy Crest—which is 60 per cent owned by farmers—is believed to have indicated that it may now be willing to offer a higher price.

Analysts said that such a deal had strong industrial logic, because the cheeses would be much more valuable to Dairy Crest than Unigate.

One said: "Unigate knows its cheese division is not very profitable. The only problem is that it does not need the money. It is already sitting with a £180 million cash pile that it does not know what to do with: an extra £10 million would just add to the problem."

Another sticking point understood to have halted the past negotiations is that any disposal of the cheese division would separate St Ivel Shape, the low-fat cheese, from St Ivel Gold and its other spread division.

Unigate's annual results show its cheese division returned sales of £160 million in the year to March 31, against group sales of £241 billion. While the division's profits were not disclosed, analysts estimate it made less than £5 million from the sales—a margin just above 3 per cent.

Ross Buckland, chief executive, said: "Cheese has been a good fit for us, but like most of our businesses it does not need to be part of Unigate. In the absence of somebody seeing it as a good opportunity for them, it will continue to make a good contribution to the group."

A strong contribution from its pigmeat and other non-dairy operations offset a £10.1 million decline in profits from dairy produce over the year to leave underlying pre-tax profits at £130 million—an expected increase of 3.4 per cent. After a £13.4 million exceptional charge, this fell to £116 million (£299 million).

Basic earnings dropped to 37.2p (113.2p) a share. The total payout rises to 20.2p (19.2p). A final 13.2p is due on August 5.

Peter Frost, chairman, said a strong performance in Britain and North America more than offset weak economic conditions in mainland Europe. Prospects in Europe were now improving, with order intake rising steadily.

Turnover was little changed at £180.3 million, up from £179.3 million, but trading profits improved to £22 million from £19.5 million. Earnings rose to 22.7p a share from 20.8p. A final dividend of 5.2p a share makes a total of 8p, up from 7p.

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Tempus, page 30



Angus Crichton-Miller, left, and Richard Atkinson

Eurocamp's hotel breaks sell well

EUROCAMP, the holiday company, has seen a sharp rise in sales of its hotel short breaks in the first half of this year, it reported yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The increase led to a reduction in its pre-tax losses in the six months to April 30 from £5.2 million to £4.7 million.

Bookings for camping holidays, which fall in the second half and which make up two thirds of sales, have risen and the company expects "a marked improvement" in current-year results. It noted,

however, that camping holiday sales have slowed somewhat in recent weeks as high season capacity is used up.

First-half sales of Superbreak and Goldenrail short break holidays rose by 12 per cent. The company, led by Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman, and Richard Atkinson, chief executive, said it expects further recovery in its camping businesses in 1998.

The seasonal loss was 8.9p a share, down from 10.5p. An unchanged 3.75p interim dividend is due on August 27.

Tempus, page 30

Salvesen target for Aggreko demerger

BY PAUL DURMAN

CHRISTIAN Salvesen intends completing the demerger of its Aggreko power hire business by the end of September, it said yesterday.

Chris Masters, chief executive, insisted that demerger was the right move for the logistics group, despite the sharp fall in Salvesen's share price since its plans were announced last November. The shares have fallen from around 360p to 236p, although this is partly explained by the 51p a share special dividend payment.

Dr Masters said it was too early to judge the demerger scheme, which was strongly opposed by Sir Gerald Elliot, the company's former chairman, and holders of 30 per cent of the company's shares.

Salvesen reported pre-tax profits of £85.9 million for the year to March 31, up by 10.7 per cent. The professional fees incurred on making the £150 million special dividend payments, and the £1 million cost of defending the tentative takeover approach from Hays last summer, were offset by a £5.8 million profit on disposals. Leaving aside these exceptional items, operating profits were 10.9 per cent higher at £89.5 million on sales of £746.3 million (£700 million).

Aggreko increased profits by a quarter, to £38.4 million. It was helped by the Atlanta Olympic Games, to which it supplied almost 800 pieces of power and cooling equipment. Dr Masters is to become executive chairman of Aggreko after the demerger.

Salvesen intends paying a final dividend of 5.35p on August 5, to give a total of 9.15p, an increase of 5.8 per cent after adjusting for the share consolidation that accompanied the special dividend payment.

Tempus, page 30

Formula One flotation is stalled on starting grid

BY JASON NISSE

THE £1.5 billion flotation of Formula One, the company which controls Grand Prix motor racing, was yesterday thrown into doubt after Salomon Brothers, which is backing the float, was unable to agree a timetable for issuing a prospectus.

Salomon Brothers had hoped to set a timetable yesterday after a meeting at which many of the complex contractual issues were to be sorted out. This was unsuccessful

and the company, which is owned by Bernie Ecclestone, is now likely to float in the autumn.

No formal announcement has been made by Salomon Brothers, which has irritated the City by stopping the circulation of research material produced by City analysts who Formula One took to the recent Spanish Grand Prix.

Among the issues that need to be resolved are the legality of the television deals struck by

Formula One in Europe, the stake that the team and track owners will have in the company and the stake to be held by Mr Ecclestone and his wife. The group's accounts, which have been circulating widely despite not having been formally published, show that Mr Ecclestone was paid £54 million last year, when the group had turnover of £200 million and profits of £85 million.

Commentary, this page

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Nazi gold controversy comes home to roost

German financial institutions must learn from the experience of the Swiss, says Oliver August

The row over Nazi gold has now engulfed Germany's financial institutions. During the past year the Swiss banks were attacked for their connection to the Holocaust, taking funds from Nazis as well as Jewish customers and keeping them.

The evidence that trickled out of newly opened US archives did grave damage to the reputation of Switzerland and its bank secrecy laws. It was only a matter of time until Germany would be drawn into the dispute. That time has now come. The Nazis' close links with big business are no secret. Hitler could never have declared war on Europe without the help of Krupp and the Junker class of Prussian landowners. But new details of how the money men profited from the war still has the power to shock, especially among the sensitive German people.

The case of the Allianz group stands out. In the 1930s it was — and still is — Europe's biggest insurance company. During the war it also helped Hitler to do his dirty work, it would now appear. Two allegations have been levelled against it in recent weeks.

First, Allianz acted as an insurance agent to

the SS, which built and supervised the concentration camps. Germany would not be Germany if this century's biggest crime against humanity did not have proper insurance policies with orderly paper work. Barracks, storage buildings and car pools were insured against fire, theft and accidents, according to *Der Spiegel* news magazine. The SS was treated like a normal customer. Volume sales were discounted. Allianz agents went to view the camps on a regular basis to check the fire risk. One agent concluded after visiting Auschwitz in 1942 at the height of the Holocaust: "Due to the continuous military supervision, there is total order and cleanliness."

Secondly, Allianz is facing a US class action suit for ripping off the life insurance policies of Holocaust victims. The company had many Jewish policyholders before the war. But not all

of them were paid out and Allianz is said to have kept at least half of the funds.

The class action suit is similar in nature to that filed against Swiss banks by Holocaust victims and their families. It is being prepared by the same American lawyer, Edward Fagan. But Allianz has, so far, failed to learn any lessons from the Swiss experience.

The Swiss banks recently recovered a certain degree of peace when they stopped playing down their Nazi involvement. Every time they uttered proclamations of innocence, US Jewish groups came up with more evidence. Marshalled by Al D'Amato, New York Senator, they combed the archives. The Swiss eventually conceded and are now negotiating compensation.

Not so in Germany. Herbert Hansmeyer, an Allianz director, responded to the recent allegations by saying that the profits from SS

business were not significant. The company had earned only a few thousand Reichmarks, he said. This is hardly the point, the victims justifiably retort.

Belatedly, the German insurers' trade association forced a different response. Allianz is set to appoint independent arbitrators from consultants Arthur Andersen to sift files and set up telephone hotlines. It will also name a panel of independent economic historians to fully investigate its relationship with the Nazi regime.

Thus the row over the Nazi past of financial institutions has now reached a stage where it can no longer be confined to Switzerland, which is actively pointing the finger at Germany. Documents relating to Allianz were first unearthed by Peter Balzli, a Swiss journalist on the Zurich newspaper *Die Sonntags Zeitung*.

The next protest target is already in sight. Dredner Bank, the German owner of Kleinwort Benson, yesterday celebrated its 125th anniversary. Did it mention its highly successful business relationship with the Nazis? No need, it said. Those moral debts were written off 50 years ago. The Swiss know better.

Brown has his work cut out over rising level of pay settlements

Philip Bassett
on the seeds of conflict being sown by rapid growth in earnings

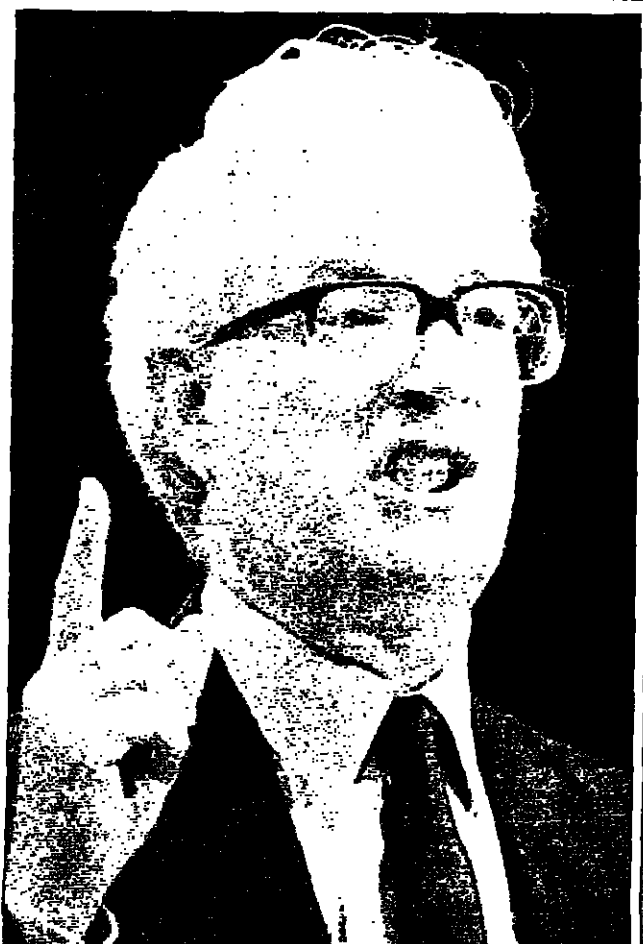
As Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French counterpart, forged a pact on jobs in Luxembourg yesterday, trade union members in Britain were getting ready to voice their ambitions on pay.

In Brighton today, leaders of Unison, the public services group and Britain's largest trade union, will spell out their hopes for public spending and wages. The challenge that confronts David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, as he addresses Unison's annual conference is that of convincing members that their claims will be given a fair hearing, without him making promises that cannot be fulfilled.

Pay, especially public-sector pay, and the trade unions are seen as one of the potential Achilles' heels of the Government. Sooner or later, goes the theory, the Government will face a dust-up with the unions — with Rodney Bickerstaffe's Unison as the most likely opponent.

But the threat of union strife is far from being the only area of pay difficulty. The Bank of England's new monetary policy committee raised interest rates for the first time last week, ahead of the latest inflation figures due out on Thursday. Much of the Bank's inflationary concerns about rising house prices and about higher consumer spending rest on mounting pay increases. But pay at the top end is causing problems, too, in particular political rows over high pay and bonus awards for the directors of Cannelor and Railtrack.

What concerns independent pay commentators in the City and elsewhere is that the rapid recent falls in unemployment are now taking the number out of work down to such a level that unemployment provides no brake on inflation. As a result, pay



Rodney Bickerstaffe, left, of Unison, and David Blunkett could be on collision course over rates of pay



settlements are rising. Unemployment is expected to fall again tomorrow, to a seasonally-adjusted level of around 1.6 million, with earnings continuing to rise at around their current rate of about 4.5 per cent.

Settlements reflect skill shortages — for instance, shortages underpin the builders' unions' confident rejection of a complex three-year pay package offering total rises of up to 32 per cent, and threatening national strike action in the building industry for the first time in a generation.

At the other end of the scale, recent pay deals include 2 per cent for Bostik glue workers and Burger King restaurant staff, 2.5 per cent for Sayers bakery workers, and 2.8 per cent in the power cable jointing industry. In spite of the large-scale local government deal, recently negotiated by the unions, giving a £4 minimum wage, some local-level council deals are still low: 2.5 per cent, for instance, in Buckinghamshire, Canterbury, Darford, Swale, Shepway and Kent local councils.

Incomes Data Services, the independent pay analysts, suggest that wage settlements are now becoming less obviously bunched around a 3 to 4 per cent range, and are showing a greater dispersal. Many of the big rises are attributable to the financial sector. Midland Bank, for instance, has just awarded its 8,300 appointed staff and managers merit rises of 5.5 per cent on average. Norwich Union offered its 9,200 staff increases worth 4.5 per cent on the pay bill, and the Northern Rock Building Society a 2.9 per cent rise, plus performance payments of 2.3 per cent, adding 5.2 per cent to its pay bill.

At NatWest, for instance, the bank allocated 3 per cent for merit-based consolidated increases for its 50,000 staff, and a further 10 per cent of its salary bill for non-consolidated bonuses. In addition, employees received an end-of-year payout of 16.2 per cent from the company's profit-related pay scheme, an area that may be targeted by the Chancellor in the Budget, and most bank staff got profit share payments of 7.9 per cent

as well. With all the bank's payments based on performance, total rises are estimated to range from 0 to 25 per cent.

Some other industries have struck complex, long-term deals, such as the five-year, inflation-linked agreement that Coca-Cola Schweppes reached with the GMB general union for employees at the firm's canning plant in Milton Keynes, which gives a 4 per cent rise in the first year, and increases linked to the retail prices index for the next four years.

Big increases in finance and elsewhere are contributing to the overall rise in total average earnings, though the complexity of pay deals, including elements like tax relief on profit-related pay, make it hard for official indices to track what is going on.

Actual pay levels may be a better guide. An analysis of real earnings, drawn from the quarterly earnings figures recorded since summer 1993 in the Government's widely-respected Labour Force Survey

of a rolling sample of 60,000 households, suggests pay is rising, and rising particularly rapidly recently. For all full-time employees, earnings in the three years to summer 1996 went up 9.9 per cent. Taking it to the most recently available quarter — autumn last year — the rise was 12.6 per cent. Big drops in unemployment after that are likely to have pushed up earnings still further.

Average earnings for all employees, as measured by the Labour Force Survey, now stand at £331 per week, or £17,200 annually. For men it is £368, or £19,100, and for women, £264, or £13,700. Pay for women is rising faster than pay for men — up by 13.8 per cent over the period, compared with 12.2 per cent for men. Earnings are going up more quickly for manual workers — 10.4 against 9.3 per cent.

Occupationally, managers are seeing sharp increases, especially recently, with earnings up by 12.7 per cent over the three years. Personal service workers, like hairdressers and security guards, are also

seeing big proportional rises of some 15 per cent, though their average pay levels are rather different: £260, or £13,500, as against £24,000 for managers. Skill shortages are reflected in sectoral differences, especially recently. From summer 1993 to summer 1996, construction pay rose by just 7.3 per cent on average. But compared with autumn, with the housing market improving, the rise was 18.4 per cent, to an average of £341, or £17,700.

Pay in banking and finance jumped by 17.2 per cent, while regionally all areas were trying to catch up with London and the South East. Average pay in greater London is now £407, or £21,200, while areas such as Yorkshire and Wales have seen big increases of around 18 per cent.

In the face of such evidence, it is hardly surprising that champions of low pay, such as local and national leaders at today's Unison conference, are pressing for the Government's proposed statutory national minimum wage to be set at what they see as a decent level — £4.42 an hour, or around £9,200 for a 40-hour week.

Mr Bickerstaffe, Unison's general secretary, said: "Britain desperately needs a minimum wage set at a decent rate."

Arguing that such a deal will benefit both sides of industry, as well as the taxpayer by cutting back on subsidies to low-paying employers through rising in-work benefits, he says: "In a wealthy society it is scandalous that so many in full-time work are living close to the margin of subsistence."

Unison's conference will feature some angry attacks on the Government, condemning the Prime Minister and others for failing to set already a specific figure for a minimum wage.

The conference is likely to see left-wing activists getting in their charges of betrayal early. Mr Blunkett will confirm today the Government's commitment to a national minimum wage. But ministers' clear warnings that the Government will not yield to unreasonable pay demands, at a time when pay deals are continuing to rise steadily as unemployment falls, may well carry with them the seeds of economic and political trouble, as Brighton is likely to show this week.

How UK firms have become short-sighted

Christine Buckley on the changing culture of strategy

Most companies fail to make strategic plans that extend beyond five years; nearly one third of businesses look even less far into the future, mapping out their corporate direction only two to four years ahead.

These claims are based on research soon to be published by Leeds University. The comprehensive study of corporate planning of more than 100 companies — ranging in size from the biggest FT-SE 100 businesses to medium-sized firms — reveals that long-term strategy and expansion into new areas are low on the agenda.

The study by Richard Falshaw and Keith Glaister of the university's business school appears to confirm a straw poll taken at the last Institute of Directors' annual conference, when more than 86 per cent of those attending said that short-termism in strategy was a problem for UK business.

Although different businesses have varying needs of forward planning, the culture of strategy is changing. No more do companies tend to house a planning department on a lofty floor in their headquarters and fill it with business academics whose views are sought very occasionally. The big picture has now been devolved from such departments to managers and/or outside consultants whose profits have soared.

Industry blames the short-term perspective of the City, which causes companies to be more conscious of quick gains at the expense of longer-term considerations. Pay is a further inducement to short-termism when it links executive bonuses to near-term targets.

Another catalyst is the drive by companies to cut costs. Shaped by cutbacks in the mid-Eighties, companies are now generally stripped to the bone. A planning department was invariably construed as a luxury that could easily be cured by selective outsourcing.

Brian O'Rourke, executive director of the Management Consultants Association, says: "Ten years ago the chairman of a large company might have sent up to the planning department for a strategic view once a year. It isn't like that any more."

At the last Confederation of British Industry conference, ICI was berated by John Kay, chairman of London Economics, the research centre, for shifting its priorities since 1988.

Professor Kay compared annual reports of the chemicals giant. In 1988 it had declared its aim to be "the world's leading chemical company, serving customers internationally through the innovative and responsible application of chemistry and related sciences... through the achievement of our aim, we will enhance the wealth and well-being of our shareholders, our employees, our customers and the communities which we serve in".

After Hanson's hostile move on ICI the declaration changed to "our objective is to maximise value for our shareholders by focusing on businesses where we have market leadership, a technological edge and a competitive cost base".

This narrowed perspective squares with answers given to Professor Falshaw's study. Only 23 per cent of companies said they gave great importance to strategic planning to totally new markets. In a separate question more than 76 per cent said their emphasis was centred on closely related markets. More than a third of companies placed little emphasis on contingency plans in their strategic planning.

It is no surprise that the profits of management consultants have risen sharply. While directors deny they have outsourced their company's strategy, they do not deny that much of the research and hypotheses on which strategy is based is acquired from consultants.

Last year the Management Consultants Association reported a 17 per cent jump in fee income to £1.4 billion. The number of businesses using its services climbed 31 per cent to more than 23,500.

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LOSING SLEEP?

foreclosure n. 1 shut down golf course (after errant ball on head) 2 one better than a fiveclosure 3 take possession of a property because an owner cannot repay money.

liquidate v. 1 a blind date, usually with a member of the Campaign For Real Ale 2 wind up the affairs (of a company) by ascertaining liabilities and apportioning assets.

tax n. 1 item commonly used for securing carpet to floor 2 round disk as dispensed to motorists (ref. *Swansea*) 3 fiscal obligation to State executed under very complex laws.

summons n. 1 belonging to somebody (*summons hat*; *summons car*; has *summon* lost this?) 2 a call to appear before a judge or magistrate.

For the definitive answers to your legal questions, call Rowe & Maw and get a little more sleep.

Rowe & Maw

LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6HD
Tel: 0171 248 4282

Lighter view

TO THE Sandown Exhibition Centre in Esher next Wednesday where it will be standing room only for an Investors in People "masterclass" from Howard Hodgson. Described by Surrey Training & Enterprise Council, sponsor of the event, as "one of Britain's most dynamic entrepreneurs", the Tescos that Hodgson was dismissed last week as chief executive of Ronsard, the lighter maker.

Andy Smith, a spokesman for the Tescos, yesterday said: "It should make for a more interesting evening."

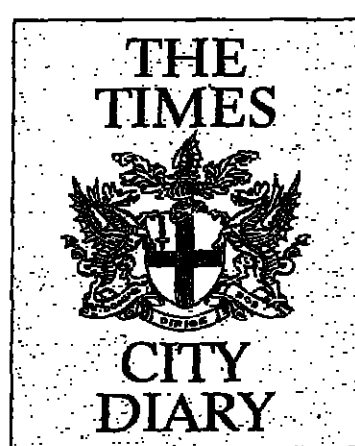
Given recent coverage of Hodgson's

mixed personal and private life, there should be some interesting questions on what the Tescos describes as "the ups and downs of his business career".

● A VARIATION has emerged to Goodhart's law — the maxim dreamed up by Professor Charles Goodhart, the newly appointed member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which goes along the lines of: "All monetary indicators become unreliable as soon as you rely upon them." A survey by KPMG Management Consultancy says up to 95 per cent of financial spreadsheets-based models contain major errors. The report is called "Supporting the decisionmaker."

Shirty

IT IS a sad state of affairs when Millwall FC — slogan "no one likes us, we don't care" — finds *Topless Darts* too steamy to be carried on its team strip as part of its sponsorship deal with Live TV. Instead the shirt will have to promote to another show: *The Weather in Norwegian*. Still it could be worse. A quick perusal of Live's schedule suggests other programmes that Millwall could promote — *Handy Hunks*, *Game of Two Scarves*, *Looking for Love* or perhaps



Tiffani's Big City Tips, which is apparently a financial programme where the presenter strips off.

Junk e-mail

AN EARLY headache for Helen Alexander, *The Economist*'s new managing director, A hacker has infiltrated the magazine's e-mail distribution list. Being such a smartypants in the brave new world of electronic publishing, *The Economist* eschewed the Internet for the Intranet — a password protected closed distribution service where subscribers pay a fee to receive the key part of the weekly.

But imagine the surprise of the Intranetters when they logged on to read: "Look what Dr Alford has

found. An opportunity for us to send junk mail to everyone on *The Economist* mailing list." According to long-time Chat, at *The Economist*, the hacker was able to take advantage of a password protection fault. "We've closed this off and it should be back to normal this week," he said. Now there's a challenge for Dr Alford.

● OVERPAID and over here — the invasion of American lawyers continues apace. The amazingly named Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft (which I am told is the oldest law firm on Wall Street, having been formed in 1792 when the street was no more than a muddy slurry) is beefing up its London operations with four new signings. It is taking Andrew Wilkinson from Clifford Chance — who is the one to chat to at parties, being an expert in non-contentious insolvency and insurance law — as well as James Starkey from Freshfields and John Walker and Russell Jacobs, both of Wilde Sapte.

Clean cuts

I AM glad to report that *Against the Odds*, the autobiography of James Dyson, the bagless vacuum cleaner magnate, is to be published at last. In Michigan in May, Amway, the US door-to-door sales group, sought to prevent publication until the millionaire inventor removed mentions of the battle between the corporation and Dyson over patent infringement.

To satisfy Amway, the cuts have been made, and the book will appear at the end of the month.

Rock steady

ANDREW FISHER, a KPMG partner, has agreed to a thankless task. He has been appointed by Peter Montefrillo, the Gibraltar Trade and Industry Minister, as the rock's first Finance Centre Development Director. He is charged with banishing memories of Gibraltar's unsavoury reputation and making it a leading European finance centre. Fisher is ably qualified. His CV boasts that he was part of the team that drafted the new Maltese tax legislation.



Dyson: hopes book will clean up

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Category	Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	1Y %	3Y %	5Y %	10Y %	20Y %	30Y %	40Y %	50Y %	60Y %	70Y %	80Y %	90Y %	100Y %	110Y %	120Y %	130Y %	140Y %	150Y %	160Y %	170Y %	180Y %	190Y %	200Y %	210Y %	220Y %	230Y %	240Y %	250Y %	260Y %	270Y %	280Y %	290Y %	300Y %	310Y %	320Y %	330Y %	340Y %	350Y %	360Y %	370Y %	380Y %	390Y %	400Y %	410Y %	420Y %	430Y %	440Y %	450Y %	460Y %	470Y %	480Y %	490Y %	500Y %	510Y %	520Y %	530Y %	540Y %	550Y %	560Y %	570Y %	580Y %	590Y %	600Y %	610Y %	620Y %	630Y %	640Y %	650Y %	660Y %	670Y %	680Y %	690Y %	700Y %	710Y %	720Y %	730Y %	740Y %	750Y %	760Y %	770Y %	780Y %	790Y %	800Y %	810Y %	820Y %	830Y %	840Y %	850Y %	860Y %	870Y %	880Y %	890Y %	900Y %	910Y %	920Y %	930Y %	940Y %	950Y %	960Y %	970Y %	980Y %	990Y %	1000Y %	1010Y %	1020Y %	1030Y %	1040Y %	1050Y %	1060Y %	1070Y %	1080Y %	1090Y %	1100Y %	1110Y %	1120Y %	1130Y %	1140Y %	1150Y %	1160Y %	1170Y %	1180Y %	1190Y %	1200Y %	1210Y %	1220Y %	1230Y %	1240Y %	1250Y %	1260Y %	1270Y %	1280Y %	1290Y %	1300Y %	1310Y %	1320Y %	1330Y 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Source: FI information.
* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return);
† Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. . No significant data.
§ P-charge Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit
Charge.



CHIEF COUNSEL AND LEGAL DIRECTOR To £150,000 package

Thanks to its clear vision, substantial resources and strong leadership, AT&T Capital is one of the leading global providers of financing programmes for equipment manufacturers and vendors. 1996 has been yet another year of outstanding financial performance with record revenues totalling \$2 billion, up almost 24% on 1995.

AT&T Capital Europe has operations throughout Europe and is a key business unit of AT&T Capital, known for consistently breaking new ground with its innovative and imaginative initiatives.

Our client seeks a senior lawyer to be a key strategic member within its European operations (based at its headquarters in Central London) and to lead its existing team of European lawyers.

With between 10 and 15 years' ppe in a major European jurisdiction, you will have a broad ranging corporate/commercial or finance law background gained in either an organisation of similar standing or private practice. A knowledge of leasing, equipment finance and secured finance, ideally in a multi-jurisdictional context, would certainly be helpful but not essential. Languages, in addition to English, would also be useful. Crucial, however, is a strong minded business awareness, effective communication and implementation skills and the ability to establish credibility quickly at all levels both inside and outside the company. You will be challenged by the prospect of making a creative and proactive legal and business contribution in a demanding and varied marketplace.

This is an exceptional opportunity to be part of AT&T Capital's core business strategy, a company which is recognised by its customers as an outstanding provider of high quality financial services, by its owners as an outstanding investment and by its members as an outstanding place to work.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Massey or Michelle McGregor on 0171-405 6862 during office hours or 0171-792 0475 at evenings or weekends, or write to them at Quarry Douglas In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. QD In-House Legal are handling the assignment on an exclusive basis and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

IN-HOUSE - UK

► Co/Com - Worldwide Role

An exciting opportunity exists for a 3-5 year qualified company/commercial lawyer to assume an international role, working for this household name multinational. A willingness to travel is essential.

Ref:138RN

► Commercial - IT Industry

This major European IT company is seeking a commercial lawyer, between 1 and 3 years qualified, to handle a broad commercial role. This represents an ideal first step in-house and the opportunity to work in a young team.

Ref:360RN

► Comm Prop/L&T - 2 Positions

We currently have two instructions from well known companies looking for property lawyers, one a Landlord & Tenant specialist and the other with more general commercial property experience. Both roles require lawyers, 1 to 4 years qualified. An experienced legal executive would be considered.

Ref:2930/2972RN

► Sales & Trading Counsel

This well known US investment bank is looking to recruit a lawyer with between 3 and 7 years experience in derivatives and other financial instruments. You must have been with a top law firm or a major bank.

Ref:1217NT

► European M&A

This prestigious organisation requires a high calibre solicitor with between 3 and 8 years corporate finance, mergers, acquisitions and restructuring experience to join a small team handling a European role.

Ref:1218NT

Please contact Naveen Tuli or Rachael North

OVERSEAS

GENERAL COUNSEL - MAINLAND EUROPE

► Entertainment Industry Six Figure Salary + Package
This is a rare opportunity for a 10+ year qualified lawyer to join this world leading group managing an international legal department of 6 lawyers and reporting to the board. You will have gained commercial experience from either the entertainment, TV or sports industries and, ideally, speak another European language. Please contact Naveen Tuli.

GENERAL COUNSEL - JEDDAH

► Diverse Multinational Six Figure Salary + Package
This is a new requirement for a senior lawyer, at least 5 years qualified, with corporate, banking and finance experience to join a multi billion pound turnover group at the corporate HQ. You will report directly to the Chairman and have a strategically critical role in expanding the group's international operations. Fluency in Arabic is extremely advantageous. Please contact Naveen Tuli.

INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE PRACTICE

Whether you are interested in Moscow or Melbourne, Prague or Perth, Shanghai or Sydney, Johannesburg or Jakarta, Hong Kong or Holland, we have positions that might suit you. We have perhaps the most comprehensive international coverage in the legal market, so if you have good academic qualifications and experience with a well known firm, please ring Daniel Lewis now on 0171 831 3270.



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E-mail: laurence@laurencsimons.demon.co.uk

LEGAL ADVISER

WILTSHIRE

COMPETITIVE SALARY + BENEFITS



Dyson is the success story of the 90's. A young, dynamic company operating at the forefront of domestic appliance technology and design, it was only set up in 1993 but now has a turnover in excess of £100 million, subsidiaries in Europe and Australia, and over 25% of the UK vacuum cleaner market. Dyson has established itself as the leading player in the market outstripping all leading international brands in the last three years. Dyson's expansion looks set to continue with further growth in Europe and worldwide.

Due to continued growth of the

business, an opportunity has now arisen for an additional lawyer to join the in-house legal department. Reporting to the Head of Legal, you will have 2-4 years broad-based company/commercial experience with exposure to EU and intellectual property matters. In-depth knowledge of drafting and negotiating international contracts would be an advantage. Candidates with experience gained in an in-house environment or first class lawyers from private practice will be considered. Enthusiastic and conscientious, you will be flexible and able to apply sound legal knowledge and a commercial approach to a diverse range of issues relating particularly to export markets, commercial contracts and intellectual property.

If you are interested in the Dyson proposition, please contact our advising consultant, Jacqueline Wood on 0121 643 1895 or write to her at In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Fax: 0121 633 0862. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to In-House Legal.

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LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

COMMERCIAL LIT - HEAD TO £200,000

Renowned for the quality and effectiveness of its litigation practice in specialist fields such as the employment and media sectors, our Client is enjoying an increasing throughput of heavyweight pure commercial litigation instructions. Its dramatic rate of growth has created a "gap" for an ambitious commercial litigation generalist who combines supreme effectiveness as a litigator with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to lead a team. (Ref:9959)

EMPLOYMENT PENSIONS TAX - EXCEPTIONAL

Fantastic opportunity for lawyers with either employment, share schemes or pensions background to move into multi-disciplinary in-house team. Work involves human resource consultancy and will be remunerated at exceptional levels. Interesting opportunity for those frustrated with private practice to gain more commercial skills. (Ref:6381)

BANKING TO £60,000

Blue chip City firm needs to recruit lawyers with up to 6 years' experience of finance to join in-house team advising on a full range of banking products. The firm offers first class training and excellent support facilities. A proactive, enthusiastic manner are essential and long term prospects are excellent. (Ref:2140)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TO £44,000

After a long period of comparative quiet on the commercial litigation front, we are beginning to see an increasing level of instructions from a variety of City and West End practices. Our offer are good variety, including commercial litigation, advisory opportunities and in most cases a high level of technical support. Many roles provide a chance to broaden experience into specialist areas such as media, insolvency and banking litigation. (Ref:6622)

IT TO £50,000

Leading multinational IT company with European headquarters in Central London has an exciting opportunity for a lawyer to join their established and high profile legal department, to specialise in IT with an international emphasis. The company would prefer previous specialist experience but will consider exceptional talent lawyers. Ideal level 3-4 years' qualified. (Ref:0159)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TO £70,000

Prestigious medium sized City firm needs lawyers with 2-4 years' experience, though candidates with greater experience will also be considered provided partnership prospects are not of paramount importance. You will enjoy role of high grade work for household name including leisure and media clients. Ideal candidates will be ambitious, proactive and able to take on significant responsibility. (Ref:5495)

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS £40-80,000

This leading project firm with an excellent network of offices across the U.S. and Europe seeks additional solicitors for its London operation. With high value projects of investment scale and complexity, further support is required and assistance will be given real responsibility. The firm offers a quality team environment where your contribution really does count. (Ref:2250)

1997 QUALIFIERS

In response to the growing demand for good quality corporate, banking/finance, commercial and property advice, a number of our clients are now recruiting solicitors qualifying in September 1997. If you have an excellent academic background, can demonstrate a high level of commercial awareness and have the interpersonal skills and ambition necessary to succeed please contact us. (Ref:0055)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES £80,000+

This is a major international bank with an extremely high profile in London. All of its lawyers work in a multi-disciplinary transaction management group working closely with the front office in a mixed business role. The team is expanding and therefore seeks a lawyer with 4 to 6 years' experience of international banking or corporate finance. The role will be a mixture of securities, structured finance and banking. It will be an extremely varied role. (Ref:3307)

COMMERCIAL ROLE - RETAIL £40,000 + BENS

A new role has been created at this European retail company within its headquarters in South London. The work will include general commercial, EC, PWT joint ventures and other areas of business law. They seek a 3-5 qualified solicitor, preferably from one of the larger legal practices in London or the provinces. An awareness of property law would be desirable. (Ref:0132)

For Private Practice vacancies please contact Andrew Casfield or Yasmin Phillips (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01483 628110 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-523 3838 (0171-442 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 San Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk.

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Interview Guide

We have just published a short guide to interview technique and to drafting effective CVs. It is available free of charge to our clients. Some of the advice on drafting CVs may be common-sense, but it is crucial. For example: any instances of work you have handled should, if possible, be interesting. "This will set you apart from the next candidate who has the same basic experience but expresses it blandly." Then comes the caveat: "Don't forget, you will have to justify what you have written."

Interview technique is covered in four sections: presentation, preparation, the interview itself, and after the interview. Key recommendations on preparation are: (a) to think about the work examples you've listed so that you will be able to talk knowledgeably about them ("this is often the only way your technical ability will be assessed"); and (b) to write down your strengths before the interview (with examples) so as to concentrate your mind and give yourself confidence ("but do not try to learn the answers off pat"). The essential elements of any interview are listed as being: reasons for leaving/joining your prospective employer; your strengths and weaknesses; and your ambitions; and the benefits you can bring to the job. "The 'weaknesses' question is always tricky. Be truthful, but try to stress the positive. Don't give examples of 'measurable' weaknesses, such as drafting or attention to detail."

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Biblos (01403-710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

Corporate Tax: Manchester

Corporate tax solicitor sought by insurance co to provide dedicated support to the corporate accounts team and design tailor made packages for clients. Large amount of liaison between the marketing team & management.

Energy: London

Excellent opportunity for solicitor with general commercial experience in a major City firm to join legal dept of leading international energy company. No prior experience of the energy sector required. Excellent prospects.

Litigation: Home Counties

Leisure company requires commercial litigator min 6 years' ppe to manage UK and international matters. Experience of property litigation essential.

PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray NORTH: Suki Bahra, Paul Thomas

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Venture Capital/Corporate: City

Unusually firm, a leader in venture capital work, is particularly keen to hear from 2-5 year qualified solicitors currently working in the regions. To £68,000.

IP/IT: City

Large City firm offers a congenial environment and state-of-the-art support systems. They seek a 2-5 year qualified assistant to handle an IP/IT/commercial mix.

Company/Commercial: US Firm

London office of highly prestigious medium-sized US firm seeks two 1-5 year qual solns for broad, mainstream corporate/commercial work.

Commercial Litigation: WC1

Small London office of large national firm offers a unique opportunity for a 1-4 year qualified commercial litigator to help in building a successful litigation team.

Sole Lawyer: South London

Commercial lawyer min 3 years' ppe required to join construction company. Work includes contracts, JV's, employment & IP. Engineering background an advantage.

Leasing: London

Major international finance company seeks solicitor with min 5-6 years' ppe of equipment leasing to undertake wide range of leasing work and handle M&As. Languages and/or qualification in another European country would be useful.

Litigation Manager: Bucks

Sole with management and lit expoe reqd by fin serv co. Ideally 2-3 yrs' ppe you will be responsible for reporting to head of legal and making presentations to directors.

Pensions: City

Major City practice, a leader in pensions, offers September '97 qualifier training and breadth and depth of experience of highest quality.

Insolvency: City

Recently qualified assistant with quality insolvency training sought by successful City insurance firm to handle a wide range of insolvency work for insurers.

Insurance Partner: City

Profitable, highly regarded niche City insurance firm seeks partner with an established reputation and contacts in insurance, reinsurance or shipping.

Private Client Partner: London/Kent

Regional heavyweight seek senior private client specialist to service growing high net worth client base. Definite partnership appointment.

Corporate: Leeds

Leading national practice requires a NQ solicitor to join highly regarded department and to handle a quality Yellow Book caseload. Excellent prospects.

TAP INTO OUR ENERGY

READING

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BG plc

The recently demerged BG plc is effectively a new company with a new management team. Following the demerger, BG has entered the most significant period of its development and is poised to develop further. As part of the on-going drive to position the team at the centre of the company, several key individuals have been recruited and more exceptional individuals are now sought for the 3 core areas of its business.

INTERNATIONAL DOWNSTREAM COMPANY COMMERCIAL LAWYER - 2-5 PQE

The international downstream part of BG is enjoying considerable success winning and executing major energy projects internationally. For this expanding and demanding arena, an individual with broad based company commercial experience is needed to deal with a range of international commercial agreements. Knowledge of joint ventures and M&A would be required and some IP and licensing experience would be useful.

CORPORATE FINANCE LAWYER - 6-8 PQE

This is an important position in an integral part of the organisation and requires a senior lawyer with a strong Corporate Finance background. Knowledge of UK company law is essential and any involvement with project, general, asset or structured finance would be of interest.

EC/REGULATORY LAWYER - 2-3 PQE

The competition and regulatory team is vital to the company. This role will cover a range of EC, Competition and Regulatory matters. A lawyer is sought with EC/Competition (including public procurement) experience who is willing also to take on regulatory issues as part of their role. There could also be some Compliance work for the right candidate.

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION UPSTREAM OIL AND GAS LAWYER - 1-5 PQE

BG Exploration and Production Ltd has substantial North Sea and international interests and is involved in many large and complex projects. There is a strong emphasis on moving development projects swiftly through to completion. Exceptional lawyers are required - preferably with

some experience of oil and gas upstream issues, but bright individuals without upstream-specific experience will be considered. Languages would be an advantage. The legal department is organised with a flexible structure to enhance career development, providing opportunities for skills to be exploited in different areas. The quality of the work is outstanding, and positions are ideally suited to ambitious and energetic lawyers who wish to avoid over-specialisation.

All posts will be based at BG's headquarters in Thames Valley Park, located (with easy M4 access) on the Thames on the East side of Reading. Salary and benefits reflect a commitment to recruiting the very best lawyers.

Interested candidates should contact our advising consultant Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal on 0171 405 0151 or write to her at 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk http://www.hwgroup.co.uk/hwgroup

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We are now looking for lawyers with expertise in the following areas: litigation, corporate finance, IP/IT, property, construction, corporate tax and private client.

For further information about Nicholson Graham & Jones, please contact our retained consultants Stephen Rodney, Sarah David or Michelle McGregor at Quarry Dougall on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

Commercial/Consumer Credit Solicitor

Near Windsor / Attractive Package

Part of the US-based Household International, HFC Bank is one of the UK's leading consumer finance companies and is the issuer of the GM and Goldfish credit cards. The continued expansion and diversification of our business means that we now seek an additional senior lawyer.

Reporting to the Company Solicitor, you will be responsible for negotiating commercial agreements with partners in our credit business and with IT and other suppliers, and for advising generally on consumer credit and finance related matters.

You are likely to have at least 10 years' post-qualification experience, preferably gained within the Legal Department of a consumer bank or finance company, and have comprehensive experience and understanding of the areas specified above. In addition, you should be able to demonstrate good skills in communication and negotiation, as well as commercial acumen.

In return we offer an attractive salary and other benefits, together with an excellent working environment based at our prestigious headquarters in Berkshire.

To apply, please write with full CV detailing relevant experience and current remuneration to Mrs J Butterfield, Human Resources: HFC Bank plc, North Street, Winkfield, Berkshire SL4 4TD.



AMEC Process and Energy Limited is a market leader in the Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Contracting Industries. The company undertakes major engineering, fabrication and construction projects in the UK and overseas.

LEGAL ADVISER

We are seeking a Legal Adviser who will advise and assist in relation to contractual, commercial and legal issues including drafting and vetting main contracts, sub-contracts, joint ventures and other agreements. The successful candidate will be based at our offices in central London and will assist our Senior Legal Adviser.

Candidates must have at least three years post qualification experience and a thorough understanding of Contract Law. The ability to communicate effectively at all levels and to work as a member of a team are also important attributes for this post together with a constructive and flexible approach to problem solving.

A generous salary and excellent benefits package will reflect the importance placed on this position.

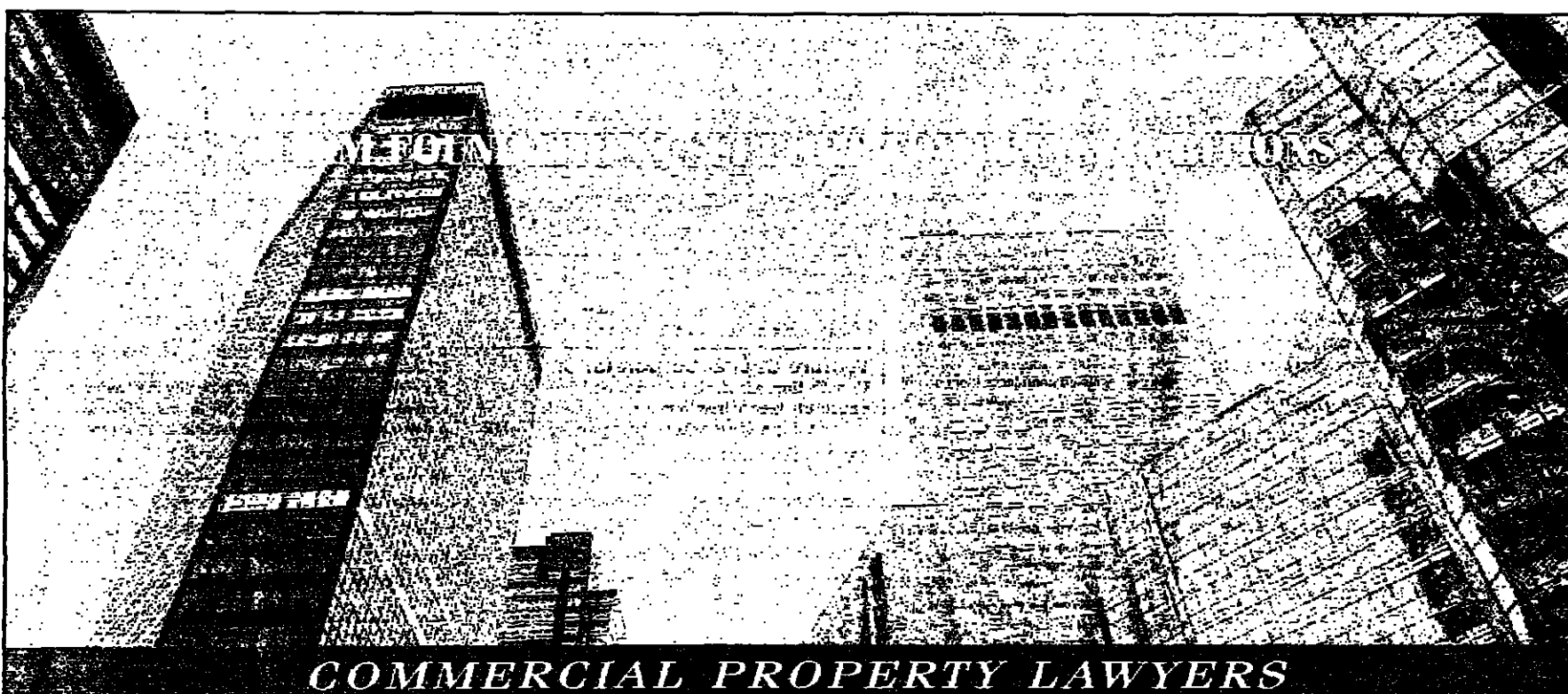
Applicants should apply in writing, including a CV to: George Brown, Employment Manager, AMEC Process & Energy Limited, 1 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RR.

We are an equal opportunities employer



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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

Our commercial property department is part of the core of the firm, underpinning its traditions of excellence, service and professionalism. We have grown to our prominent position by understanding our clients' businesses and anticipating their future needs.

Having won significant high calibre new business and clients, we are looking for solicitors with between two and seven years experience to contribute to and enhance our expertise.



Titmuss Sainer Dechert

We are not just concerned with technical skills. We are equally interested in good commercial minds and the ability to provide real and practical solutions to our clients.

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LAW

● REGIONAL BOOST 41
● LAW REPORT 43

DIY cases can fall apart

Gary Slapper reports on the people who represent themselves in court, sometimes successfully. But in most cases... well, let's say erecting shelves is a lot easier

Next week judgment will be given in the longest trial in English legal history — something of an irony as campaigners demanding instant reforms. Mr Justice Bell will decide in the so-called McLibel trial which, when submissions were completed last December, had run for a record 313 days. Helen Steel and David Morris were sued by McDonald's after they published a leaflet — alleged to be defamatory — about the company. The campaigners conducted their own case in the High Court and became Britain's most celebrated DIY lawyers — "litigants in person" (LIPs) as they are technically known.

Whether or not the defendants Morris and Steel win, their determination in court has encouraged others to take part, unrepresented, in the esoteric courtroom dramas of Britain — but this is a hazardous course.

Legal reasoning has always been an enigmatic art. It has, from time to time, bewildered even some judges, as Chief Justice Fortescue acknowledged in a case in 1458 when he admitted: "We have several set forms which are held as law, and so held and used for good reason, though we cannot at present remember that reason."

Those, therefore, who enter the legal arena to do battle without legal representation often struggle. The acclaimed victories won earlier this year by 63-year-old Colin Seymour and 28-year-old Frank Cunningham were not representative of most of these cases.

Mr Seymour, a campaigner who has had success in 81 civil cases he has personally prepared and presented, was aiming to save 56 yards of Hawthorn hedge near his home in Flamborough, Humberside. The parish council wanted to tear it down and develop a bowling green, but Mr Seymour discovered that under an Enclosure Act of 1765, the council was bound to maintain the hedge and in January he persuaded Hull County Court to grant him application for a declaration that the council was bound by the legislation.

Mr Cunningham, after a motorcycle

accident in Manchester in 1985, had his leg in plaster but it became numb. A serious arterial problem was not diagnosed and his leg had to be amputated at the knee. He sued the health authority for negligence. Last month, after more than ten years of procedural delay, arteriograms lost by the health authority, two firms of lawyers and a lost trial, Mr Cunningham won £235,000 in damages after representing himself in the Court of Appeal.

Such successes are exceptional. Only a minute proportion of LIPs win their cases, and most find taking on the legal process alone a thoroughly frustrating and confounding business. In applications by LIPs to be granted leave to appeal, about 90 per cent fail. Of just under 600 LIPs who brought their cases to the Court of Appeal in 1994-95 only 4 per cent were successful.

Because many LIPs do not understand the technicalities of the law they are arguing, or the relevant procedures, their cases are often inordinately protracted. The McDonald's trial, which ran for more than two and a half years and in which the closing speeches alone lasted eight weeks, may have given the defendant campaigners a good opportunity to vent their views on all the relevant issues, but for most LIPs involved in family and bankruptcy matters, lengthy proceedings are an added pain.

The problem is getting worse. A study for the Judges' Council in 1995 found that the number of LIP applications to the Court of Appeal rose from one in ten cases in 1989-90 to one in three in 1992-94. The raising of the small claims court limit from £500 in 1989 to £3,000 today is putting more claimants into an arena where legal costs are not recoverable, and where, accordingly, they are less likely to engage a lawyer but where company defendants are always represented.

Legal representation is generally recognised to afford litigants an advantage over an unrepresented side. In one study of industrial tribunals, for example, it was found that if the applicant was represented and the respondent was not, the applicant's probability of success was 48 per cent, whereas



Helen Steel and David Morris: do-it-yourself lawyers in the record book

if the applicant was not represented and the respondent was, their probability of success fell sharply to 10 per cent. In his final report, last year, on civil justice, Lord Woolf recommended raising the county court small claims limit to £5,000, a suggestion since approved by Lord Mackay of Clashfern while Lord Chancellor. Clearly, such a change would worsen the problem of unrepresented claimants.

The rapid decline in legal aid eligibility since 1990 has also swelled the numbers of LIPs entering the courts.

The Citizens Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice recently benefited from a £65,000 grant to fund an experimental extension of the advice

service to LIPs. In his report Lord Woolf made 14 recommendations specifically to facilitate the mission of the LIP. He suggests, for example, that unrepresented clients should have access to court libraries, and that judges should be trained in taking an interventionist approach in cases with an unrepresented party.

This strategy seems to recognise the growing role of LIPs in the legal system but it is questionable whether such an approach — however attractively low-cost to the State — will significantly improve the experience of either the litigants or the court personnel whom they face.

Dr Gary Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

The real test of our human rights

The Government plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, a proposal which Liberty has supported for more than 20 years. This will mean that our fundamental civil and political rights exist no longer merely in the silence of the law but will have a key place in a new constitution. For the first time we will have positive rights to privacy and fair trial, freedoms of expression, religion and assembly.

The Convention is not a panacea and being nearly 50 years old needs to be supplemented by new rights in a domestic Bill of Rights. But in the shorter term, the Government needs to make important decisions on how incorporation is to be achieved.

The real test of the new Parliament's commitment will be whether it is prepared to allow the courts to give a higher status to the Convention than other legislation. The Canadians have managed to develop devices that

mind Parliament every time a similar case came along. The danger with this approach is that if a case concerned an unpopular group of people, such as suspected terrorists, or protesters, or was controversial in some other way, as many human rights cases are, Parliament might never get round to changing the law. The law would then be in a mess with the courts finding violations and Parliament taking no action to remedy the situation.

This problem can be illustrated by an example. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 changed the law on bail. Defendants who have been convicted of very serious offences in the past and who are later charged with a similar offence are not entitled to bail whatever their circumstances. It can be argued that this absolute ban violates the rights contained in Article 5 of the Convention (the right to liberty) and there are already two cases on this point pending with the European Commission. If the New Zealand model were adopted, our courts would be able to find that there was a violation but the litigant could be given no redress. Parliament could change the law but might never find the time. Other cases would be taken to the courts and the courts would give judgment but then would be powerless to deliver a remedy based on this judgment. This would lead to further conflicts between Parliament and the courts.

Most of the cases decided by the European Court against the United Kingdom last year involved problems with primary legislation. Other cases pending include restrictions on the right to silence and on the right to protest and on New Age travellers from the same 1994 Act. Recent additions to anti-terrorist legislation and the original "bugging proposals" in the Police Act 1996 indicate that legislation that might result in violations of the Convention remains a real possibility even after incorporation.

Now that it is in government, Labour must revisit this issue urgently and adopt the tried and tested Canadian model to resolve the contradictions in the current proposals.

The Government also proposes new duties on Parliament, ministers and the Civil Service to protect rights. Proposed new laws will need to be assessed for compliance with the Convention. In this way, fewer violations of rights based on legislation should end up in the courts. We need not follow slavishly either the Canadian or the New Zealand model. But the courts must have power to provide a real check when Parliament has legislated in a way that puts our fundamental human rights at risk.

● The author is Director of Liberty.



JOHN WADHAM

Judge ye not the judges

CROWN COURT recorders and other barristers sitting as judges can breathe a sigh of relief. The public will not be able to complain about them to the Bar's new complaints system. A wrangle between the Bar Council and judges over whether the system should have jurisdiction over judges has come up with a lawyerly compromise.

As it is must be by law, the Bar Council obtained approval 18 months ago from the Lord Chancellor and the four senior judges for its complaints system.

It was never intended for full-time judges to be included, but the problem was what to do about barristers who may be complained about while sitting part-time.

Now it has been decided that they are not covered by the complaints system if exer-

INNS AND OUTS

cising a judicial function. The latest issue of *Bar News* helpfully explains that this "would appear to include making inappropriate remarks from the bench," but not "taking a bribe."

Mears again

MARTIN MEARS, the grassroots solicitor who took the Law Society by storm after successfully beating its candidate for the presidency two years ago, is to stand again.

His announcement last week shows the Law Society can still shoot itself in the foot. Two recent announcements which could not have been better timed for Mears will have convinced him he can win just before the close of nominations, the society unveiled proposals to increase solicitors' indemnity fund contributions by up to 80 per cent.

The week before it published the damning results of a

survey which found, among other things, that just 8 per cent of the society thought it was doing a good job. Almost half of respondents did not know that Tony Gilling was the current President.

Mr Mears says: "It has been said that when I won the presidency in 1995, I had 'broken the mould'. It would be more accurate to say that I had thrown a large stone into the water. With my departure last year, the ripples created by the stone ceased and the pool is its stagnant self again."

Phillip Sycamore, the current deputy president who is standing for the presidency, says the profession can ill afford to be "inward-looking and divisive." "I believe," he adds, "that the large majority of the profession will bitterly resent yet another contest at the very time we need to be involved in the affairs of a new Government with an overwhelming majority, which

will be challenging the profession on a number of issues."

United still

WHAT could have been an embarrassing public split at last week's Law Society Council over whether to scrap minimum salaries for trainees has been averted.

Leading members of the society proposed a full-scale review of training contracts, including the minimum salary which will be maintained, pending the review. Hannah Wiskin, who chairs the Trainee Solicitors Group, was delighted. The society had accepted the trainees' concerns about the link between low pay and poor training.

John Kendall, senior partner of the City law firm Allen & Overy, may not be too pleased at the review of his book, *Expert Determination*, which appears in the latest edition of *The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' The Firm* appears as Allen & Overy.

Training teams

CHAMBERS may soon have to open their doors to teams of inspectors aiming to ensure they are training their pupils properly. The proposal is one of a series of options in a consultation paper on the monitoring of pupillage drawn up by a Bar Council and Inns of Court working party led by Peter Gross, QC.

Under the plan, a monitoring team would visit chambers from time to time to inspect their training documents and interview pupils.

The paper also suggests that pupils whose training reaches the highest standards could be awarded a Kitemark.

SCRIVENER

Cashing in on the 2000 crash

HIGH STREET litigators stand to gain from a blizzard of litigation over the "millennium bomb" (computers crashing because they cannot recognise that the year 2000 follows 1999). Alex Megaw, an IT lawyer for Davies Wallis Foyster of Manchester, says that ovens, video recorders and other domestic appliances are still being sold with the fault in their programming. He adds: "It is the supplier who will be at the coalface of claims." In some cases, the supplier will be a finance company that will find itself trying to chase bankrupt companies for the warranties.



Millennium — what millennium problem?

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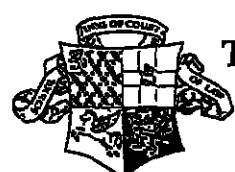
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For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mesrid, Kate Sutcliffe or Rebecca Errington on 0171-405-6062 (0181-442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831-6394. This assignment is being dealt with on an exclusive basis and all third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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EXECUTIVE SEAR

Michael Karwowski on how lobbying is paying off for a West Country city

Devolution for some regional lawyers

London has traditionally been the heart of the legal world. But in recent years there have been moves to increase the importance of the regions. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has indicated for instance that he would be ready to look at the feasibility of judicial review outside the capital. But already a persuasive case for decentralisation is being made in Bristol.

The West Country city has developed an impressive commercial litigation establishment, making it almost self-sufficient of London for the first time. The legal devolution arises largely from the setting-up of a Mercantile Court in January 1994 with its own specialist circuit judge, Judge Jack, QC. The court's work includes contractual disputes, banking, insurance, fraud and professional negligence.

Since the court's inception, the number of writs issued has mushroomed from 142 in the first year of operation to 310 in 1995 and 587 last year. This represents a rise of more than 300 per cent over the past two years. The new court has also heard several nationally important cases that have made legal history in their own way. These include 70 alleged pension mis-selling actions with far-reaching implications for the financial services industry and cases that have become the leading authorities in their specific areas of the law. And, as if to emphasise Bristol's new-found autonomy, two of Judge Jack's decisions have already been upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The reins of central control were loosened further a year after the setting-up of the Mercantile Court when Mr Justice Chadwick was appointed to be Chancery supervising judge for Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham. His appointment added strength to Bristol's claim to

be a leading commercial and legal centre because the nature of his work includes insolvency, shareholder disputes and intellectual property.

The most immediate beneficiaries of the increasing importance of Bristol as a commercial law centre have been those firms with a strong presence in the city. They have been able to conduct more of their litigation in the local courts.

Commercial cases now proceed not only very much more quickly but also at a greatly reduced cost. This is a by-product of the greater efficiency of the process and of the fact that the case can be heard on a litigant's doorstep.

Simon Pizze, commercial litigation partner at the Bristol solicitors Veale Wasbrough, says: "Crucial to this efficiency is the fact that a single judge runs the case from beginning to end. This means that he is able to exercise the kind of case management overview that leads to speedy and effective decisions. There is also easy access to the judge's clerks, who demonstrate good knowledge of cases and procedure."

Similarly, Mr Justice Chadwick has also taken on a case management role for a large number of cases in the Chancery Division and is willing to decide cases of general importance, leapfrogging the District Judge, where appropriate.

All this home rule is leading to fewer trips down the M4 for Bristol-based solicitors — and therefore reduced costs to the client. "Even two years ago," Mr Pizze says, "I would still normally issue proceedings in London and litigate in London. Now I often bring proceedings in Bristol. This is hardly surprising, as I have never encountered any difficulty in obtain-



Simon Pizze, a commercial litigator in Bristol: speedy decisions

ing very early hearing dates from Judge Jack: not something I could confidently have said in all my years of litigating in London."

The development of commercial litigation as a growth industry has also given the Bristol Bar a new opportunity. Those who have responded have reaped an impressive portfolio of commercial casework. "There has already been a significant increase in the number of counsel who regularly undertake commercial work in Bristol," Mr Pizze adds. "What is also important is that we are also seeing specialisms being developed by the Bristol Bar in areas such as company law and insolvency."

All of this is in line with the recommendations of the Woolf Report into the efficiency of the legal system. And, indeed, the decentralisation of commercial law

applies to other regional cities, including Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle.

Where Bristol is concerned, however, it is unlikely that any of this would have been achieved had it not been for a two-year lobbying campaign by the regional CBI, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and the Bristol Law Society. Both the business and legal community in the city felt that Bristol could never promote itself as a commercial centre capable of attracting major international investment without a commercial court.

But two years is hardly a long time to bring about the requisite legal environment for such enormous and beneficial changes. Certainly, Bristol is a case in point in that small adjustments in the structure of the law can produce their own entrepreneurial harvest.

Be careful, in case you reveal a secret

Shock waves are still reverberating around the City after the legal action by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The case was a timely reminder of the gravity with which the courts view misuse of confidential information. CWS obtained an injunction against Andrew Regan, and some of his associates and advisers, including Allan Green, the former senior CWS employee. The injunction was granted on the basis of evidence obtained by CWS allegedly showing that Mr Green had passed highly confidential documents to Mr Regan and his associates.

Can an individual use information he or she gets from the employer? When can an employer stop this information being used? And what happens if the individual leaves the job?

It all depends on the type of information. Broadly, the law recognises three categories of information held by a company: trade secrets, confidential information and information within the general skill or knowledge of its employees.

Trade secrets are the most confidential type. There is no definition of a trade secret; courts decide on the individual circumstances of the case. The most important factors are the nature of the information and to what extent the employer treated it as confidential within its organisation. Examples can include special manufacturing processes, chemical formulae, designs, a board's corporate strategy, or highly sensitive financial information.

The CWS case involved highly confidential documents, including the company's 1997 budget, board minutes, and profit and sales figures.

Trade secrets are the easiest information to protect. They can be safeguarded by an express clause in the employee's employment contract. But even when there is no such clause, courts impose an implied duty on employees not to use trade secrets or disclose them to others, during the employment and after it has ended.

More confidential information does not attract the same protection. Again, what constitutes confidential information depends on circumstances but could include: customer and supplier lists, sales figures and analysis, and new product information. Confidential information can be protected during and after employment by an express clause in the employment contract. Even with no such clause, the courts will imply an obligation on the employee not to use or disclose such information



Regan, top, and Green: injunction from CWS



Simon Taylor and Gavin Foggo on company confidentiality

while employed, but (unlike trade secrets) not afterwards. The exception is where the employee has already misused the confidential information during his employment; for example, by copying or removing it.

Information considered to be within an employee's general skill and knowledge also depends on the particular case but might include knowledge of general scientific principles and methods, market information on products, and prices, suppliers and customers generally known within the industry. Such information is not confidential at all. When in the job, the employee has an implied duty, often reinforced expressly in his contract, not to use his skill or knowledge for the benefit of a competitor. But after the job has ended, he can use and disclose information within his ordinary skill or knowledge even if acquired during his work.

A third party who receives a trade secret or other confidential information can normally be prevented from using it, where he knows it is confidential or where he has turned a blind eye after receiving it in suspicious circumstances.

A third party receiving such information without knowing it is confidential can be prevented from using it after being notified of its confidentiality. There are two exceptions: first, where the third party has had paid for the information and did not know it was confidential or secondly, where the information has lost its confidentiality through becoming too widely disseminated.

Mr Green's part in the CWS affair appears to have cost him his job. But it is not just employees who can come a cropper. Mr Regan's takeover bid has been stopped dead in its tracks. A Serious Fraud Office investigation has commenced. His advisers, the City bank Hambros, and the City law firm Travers Smith Braithwaite, have had to make full public apologies and pay punitive costs and substantial compensation to CWS, rumoured to be more than £1 million.

Today's commercial world is increasingly competitive. Access to information is often the difference between success and failure. But information from the wrong source can come with a hefty price tag.

Simon Taylor is a partner and Gavin Foggo is a solicitor, specialising at Fox Williams, a City law firm, in commercial litigation.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 10 1997

Court of Appeal

Law Report June 10 1997

LAW 43

Court of Appeal

Father is entitled to contact

In re M (a Minor) (Contact: Supervision)

Before Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment May 20]

A father was not to be denied supervised contact at a contact centre with his young child simply because his life style and general lack of stability prevented him from the foreseeable future from having unsupervised contact. He was not to be condemned as incapable of being able within a reasonable time frame to organise his life so as not to order contact at all.

The Court of Appeal so held granting leave and allowing the appeal by the father of a girl aged two from an order of Mrs Assistant Recorder Wilby sitting in Bullon County Court in January 1997 dismissing his application for contact.

Miss Samantha Birkin for the father; Mr Alexander Kloss for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the parents, who were not

married, had had a tempestuous relationship that had broken down when the child was two months old. The father had had limited supervised access that had been successful.

Later unsupervised contact was stopped for reasons relating to the care of the child. The father, the judge found, although genuine and committed in his wish to see his daughter, posed a potential risk to her because of his drug/alcohol abuse, occasional lack of control over his temper, his having no permanent home and the circles in which he moved.

The judge concluded that it was not in the child's interest to build up a relationship with her father which could not in the foreseeable future lead to unsupervised contact.

The fundamental flaw in the judge's approach was her failure to apply any consistent period of time to the question she had to address.

The father's application was limited strictly to contact at a contact centre. The judge had had

as her immediate concern the issue of unsupervised contact and found against the father.

But unsupervised contact was something that the father suggested might take place only in the future. The judge had no evidence to justify a conclusion that it was impossible to envisage a time when the step from supervised to unsupervised contact could take place without harm to the child.

The judge was not to condemn the father as incapable of ever so organising his life within a suitable time frame so as not to start contact at all. If contact at the contact centre worked with a committed father building on the relationship he had, that could only be to the child's advantage, because attachments once made were attachments worth building on.

In re O (Contact: Imposition of conditions) [1995] 2 FLR 124, 129 Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, said that the courts "should not at all readily accept that the child's welfare will be

injured by direct contact... [they] should take a medium-term and long-term view of the child's development and not accord excessive weight to what appear likely to be short-term or transient problems".

That was the error into which the judge fell. She had imposed an indefinite, imprecise and inconsistent time frame to the question she posed and she had failed to address the medium term and long term, both of which pointed in favour of the benefits that were likely to be gained by this little girl from having effective, meaningful contact to her father, who in many respects had shown himself fitted for that responsibility.

The judge had erred in principle. An order should be substituted that there be contact, as recommended by the court welfare officer, at the contact centre for no less than one hour each week.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS agreed. Solicitors: Kippax Beaumont Lewis, Bolton; Adam F. Greenhalgh & Co, Bolton.

Regina v Crawford (Charisse)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Maurice Kay and Mr Justice Toulson

[Judgment June 5]
Guidance was given on the problem arising when deciding whether a co-defendant as witness was liable to be cross-examined about previous offences because he had "given evidence against any other person charged with the same offence" as provided by section 10(1)(j) of the Criminal Evidence Act 1998.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, said that the essential question, put at its simplest, was: "Did the evidence given by the defendant in the witness box, if accepted, damaged in a material respect or which undermines the defence of the co-accused?"

The point was reconsidered in *R v Bruce (Steven)* [1975] 1 WLR 1252, 1259 where Lord Justice Stevenson, giving the reserved judgment of the court, had said: "... evidence cannot be said to be given against a person charged with the same offence as the witness who gives it if its effect, if believed, is to result not in his conviction but in his acquittal of that offence. The fact that Bruce's evidence undermined McGuinness's defence by supplying him with another does not make it evidence against him."

It was only if such evidence undermines a co-accused's defence so as to make his acquittal less likely is it given against him. If that puts a gloss upon a gloss, the addition is needed to preserve the

followed the victim out of the lavatories.

Counsel for the co-defendant, in the jury's absence, sought leave to cross-examine the appellant about her convictions, one of which was a recent conviction for robbery.

His Lordship referred to authorities in which the meaning of the statutory phrase "evidence against any other person" had been the subject of judicial consideration. In *Murdoch v Taylor* [1955] AC 574, 592 in which Lord Donovan had said: "I myself would... simply say that 'evidence against' means evidence which supports the prosecutor's case in a material respect or which undermines the defence of the co-accused."

The point was reconsidered in *R v Bruce (Steven)* [1975] 1 WLR 1252, 1259 where Lord Justice Stevenson, giving the reserved judgment of the court, had said:

"... evidence cannot be said to be given against a person charged with the same offence as the witness who gives it if its effect, if believed, is to result not in his conviction but in his acquittal of that offence. The fact that Bruce's evidence undermined McGuinness's defence by supplying him with another does not make it evidence against him."

It was only if such evidence undermines a co-accused's defence so as to make his acquittal less likely is it given against him. If that puts a gloss upon a gloss, the addition is needed to preserve the

natural meaning of "proviso (j)(ii)).

The most recent detailed consideration of the question was that found in *R v Varley* [1982] 2 All ER 519, 522-3.

His Lordship said that the evidence of one defendant was evidence against the co-defendant if it supported the prosecution case against the co-defendant in a material respect or undermined the defence of the co-defendant. That seemed to their Lordships to be a matter of common sense.

A clear and simple rule had been propounded in *Murdoch* and, although the passage from *Bruce* involved an element of elaboration, that also seemed to their Lordships to put the matter clearly and accurately.

The essential question, put at its simplest, was whether the evidence given by the defendant in the witness box, if accepted, damaged in a significant way the defence of the co-defendant. The statute then provided that the defendant might be asked and obliged to answer questions relating to his previous convictions.

If on any factual matter there was no issue between the Crown and a co-defendant, the defendant's evidence did not damage the defence of the co-defendant if the defendant's evidence was also to the same effect.

If the defendant's evidence supported the Crown in a respect which was not contentious, that was not a material respect.

If, however, the defendant's case

supported the prosecution evidence on a significant matter in issue between the Crown and the co-defendant and relative to proof of the commission by the co-defendant of the offence charged against him, that was evidence potentially damaging to the defence of the co-defendant and was to be regarded for purposes of the statutory provision as evidence by the defendant against the co-defendant.

Varley concerned only two persons so that it was a case where either A or B committed the offence, and their Lordships agreed with the assistant recorder's view that a proposition by that court that "it must have been the other who did" was couched in mandatory terms and would have been more appropriate if "must" were substituted by "may". That proposition went into far and was inappropriate to the present case where more than two persons were concerned.

The assistant recorder was correct in the circumstances to rule as he had ruled. Their Lordships felt bound to remind themselves that the judgment of the court in *Varley*, helpful though it was, was not itself a statutory provision.

The words used in the statute were simple and readily intelligible and there was a danger in over-complicating what their Lordships felt sure was intended to be an easily applicable test.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

When co-defendant gives evidence

When driver takes over vehicle

Brown v Anelay

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Auld

[Judgment May 15]

A driver had taken over a vehicle for the purposes of article 15(2) of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 (OJ 1985 L370 p10) if he was a driver present upon the vehicle and was a driver for the purposes of that journey.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Department of Transport Vehicle Inspectorate from the acquittal by Miss Jacqueline Levene, Horseferry Road Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate on June 17, 1996 of the defendant, Mark Anthony Anelay, of a charge under section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968, as substituted by regulation 2(1) of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1984 No 144) and regulation 3(3) of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986 No 1457), as amended by regulation 2 of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 212).

Mr Anthony Ostrin, solicitor, for the prosecution; Mr Martin Rutherford for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the defendant had been one of two drivers employed to drive a coach from Southampton to Warsaw. The defendant boarded the coach at the start of the journey but was not due

to drive until the coach reached Dover.

Before the defendant had begun to drive, the coach was inspected and it was found that the defendant had not commenced keeping tachograph records, as required by article 15(2) of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 (OJ December 20, 1985 on recording equipment in road transport).

The defendant had argued that a driver's duties under article 15(2) began, in the words of the article, "starting from the moment they take over the vehicle". It was submitted that the phrase "take over the vehicle" should be interpreted narrowly and that a driver only took over a vehicle when he began to drive it.

His Lordship rejected that submission. Article 15 had to be read as a whole, and plainly contemplated that there could be more than one driver for registration purposes at any one time.

The article used the phrase "take over the vehicle" rather than "take over the driving" and the defendant took over the vehicle for article 15(2) purposes at Southampton.

The regulations were intended to cover not only the person driving at the material time but any other drivers present upon it who were drivers for the purposes of the journey the coach was making.

Mr Justice Auld agreed. Solicitors: Bruce Weir Ostrin, Uxbridge; Mason Baggott & Carlton, Brigg.

Tachograph sheets must be retained

Birkett and Another v Wing

Fisher v Dukes Transport (Craigavon) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Auld

[Judgment May 10]

Record sheets which had been used in a tachograph machine were "recording equipment" for the purposes of section 97 of the Transport Act 1968 and a failure to keep such sheets was an offence under that section.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when (i) dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by John Birkett, trading as Lakeland Coaches, and Philip Roy Hayton against their convictions by Manchester Justices on November 1, 1996, of charges under section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968, as substituted by regulation 2(1) of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1984 No 144) and regulation 3(3) of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986 No 1457), as amended by regulation 2 of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 212), and (ii) allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Department of Transport Vehicle Inspectorate from the acquittal by Penrith and Alston Justices on May 17, 1996 of Dukes Transport (Craigavon) Ltd of charges under the same provision.

On behalf of the defendants it had been argued that "recording equipment" included record sheets inside a tachograph machine but not those which had since been removed.

In his Lordship's judgment, the phrase "recording equipment" in use according to articles 13 and 15 referred not just to the tachograph machinery itself, but also to record sheets which had emerged from the machinery.

Mr Justice Auld agreed. Solicitors: Backhouses, Blackburn; Barnister Preston & Ormerod, Sale. Cartmell Shepherd, Carlisle; Jonathan S. Lawton, Manchester.

Hayton; Mr Patrick Sudd for the prosecution.

Mr Christopher Hough for Dukes Transport; Mr Malcolm Dutchnan-Smith for the prosecution in the second appeal.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that in both cases a coach driver had been unable to produce tachograph record sheets for the previous working day when requested to do so by a vehicle inspector.

The central point which arose was whether the obligation imposed by section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968 to use recording equipment in accordance with articles 13 to 15 of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 of December 20, 1985 on recording equipment in road transport (OJ 1985 L370 p10) included an obligation to produce record sheets from the day before.

On behalf of the defendants it had been argued that "recording equipment" included record sheets inside a tachograph machine but not those which had since been removed.

In his Lordship's judgment, the phrase "recording equipment" in use according to articles 13 and 15 referred not just to the tachograph machinery itself, but also to record sheets which had emerged from the machinery.

Mr Justice Auld agreed. Solicitors: Backhouses, Blackburn; Barnister Preston & Ormerod, Sale. Cartmell Shepherd, Carlisle; Jonathan S. Lawton, Manchester.

Proving foreign arrest warrant authentic

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Bekar

Before Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Brian Smedley

[Judgment May 15]

The authenticity of a warrant of arrest of a foreign state in extradition proceedings in England was governed by section 26 of the Extradition Act 1969, regardless of whether the proceedings were under Part III of or Schedule 1 to that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for a writ of habeas corpus in respect of an order of the Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate committing the applicant to Brixton Prison to await the secretary of state's warrant for his surrender to the Department of Justice of the United States of America on charges relating to, inter alia, possession of heroin.

Mr John Hardy for the applicant; Mr James Lewis for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the applicant had submitted that the applicable test for authentication was that in paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 1 to the 1969 Act and article VII(5)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Extradition Treaty 1972 between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, since the case was governed by section 1(3) of the 1969 Act.

That test required at least a certified true copy of an original document, whereas in the present case the relevant warrant was only a certified copy of a copy.

The respondent had contended that the correct test was that set out in section 26 of the 1969 Act, which in his submission did apply to cases governed by section 1(3) and that furthermore, article VII(5)(c) of the Treaty permitted authentication in "such manner as may be permitted by the law of the requested party", and so did not exclude the provisions of the 1969

Act relating to authentication in any event.

Section 26 permitted authentication by the oath of a witness or purported signature of an officer of the foreign state of issue. The relevant warrant would be duly authenticated under that test.

His Lordship said that section 26 was a generally expressed provision contained in Part VI of the 1969 Act which dealt with miscellaneous and supplementary matters. Unless recourse was had to section 26 there was nothing in Schedule 1 of the Act to indicate what was meant by the words "duly authenticated" in paragraph 7(1) of that Schedule.

Accordingly, his Lordship agreed with the respondent that section 26 applied to cases governed by section 1(3) of and Schedule 1 to the Act and that the test was not cut down by article VII(5).

Solicitors: Offenbach & Cox Crown Prosecution Service, London.

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BY MEL WEBB

The US Open is the major, no matter where it is played, that suits *Montgomery's game* more than any other. And that includes the Open Championship, in which it is possible consistently to hit the middle of rolling, undulating links fairways and still end up with a second shot out of rough. In its peculiarly British way, it is a lottery, albeit a gloriously unique one.

However, his only win this year remains the Nissan Open in Los Angeles in March and his swing let him down at crucial times on Sunday.

Yet it is his unreliable putting that most threatens his chances of a seventh major title this week, in an event where Europeans have not fared well. Tony Jacklin was the last European winner in 1970.

Montgomery has his sights set on the US Open after his victory at Slaley Hall. Photograph: Andrew Redington/Allsport

"The main criticism was that we were doing a disservice to the British golf public on the basis that people had to pay for it, and not having it free to air could retard the development of new players. I don't think that is the case. Enormous numbers of people watched the Ryder Cup at Oak Hill, if not on

"No," Schofield said. "If, because of their quick success, some of our players see a better alternative for them to play the winter tour in the US, I personally think we cannot support that. We know that 'the Florida swing' is the world tour in March. We never have much hope of seeing Nick Faldo or Sandy Lyle."

seven out of the 33 events on our tour, then I, personally, have a problem with that. There is a difference between a player such as Faldo — who has played ten Ryder Cup matches, qualified for seven and been picked for three — compared to a fellow shouting that he wants to play but he doesn't want to be a member."

By PATRICIA DAVIES

Last year £200,000 was raised and yesterday Herb Lotman, the mastermind behind the event, appealed for more volunteers to come forward to help at the tournament. Five hundred or so people are on the books so far, but a further 500 would not go amiss.

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[illegible]

FOOTBALL: BACK-DOOR ROUTE TO WORLD CUP OPEN FOR HODDLE'S TEAM

England still best of the rest

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS ENGLAND bask in the afterglow of having been anointed champions of the Tournoi de France and contemplate playing Brazil in Paris this evening, Glenn Hoddle, the coach, can reflect on a satisfying weekend. It has been a long time since the national side's global reputation has touched such heights.

Hoddle can also take heart from the latest series of World Cup qualifying matches around Europe, with England still on course to reach the finals in France next year automatically if they finish as the best runners-up in the nine groups. In the unofficial table of the second-placed countries, they lead Yugoslavia and Austria by two points.

With the table compiled by using results against opponents lying first, third and fourth in each group — as decreed by Fifa, the sport's governing body — much will change before the concluding set of fixtures, on October 11. Since the calculations of ten days ago, after England defeated Poland 2-0 in Katowice, Switzerland, Russia and Ireland have dropped out of the top nine places, to be replaced by Finland, Israel and Macedonia.

Finland have leapfrogged Switzerland and Hungary in group three, courtesy of their 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan in Helsinki. A

three-cornered fight for second position, behind Norway, who drew 1-1 with Hungary in Budapest, is likely to develop, with the victors securing one of the eight play-off places.

From the two-legged play-offs, to be staged on October 29 and November 15, four countries will join the nine group winners, the best runners-up and France in Europe's 15-strong contingent. Seventeen others — including Brazil, the holders, and Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria, who qualified from the African zone at the weekend — will complete the line-up.

Russia have disappeared from the runners-up table by virtue of their 2-0 win against Israel, the previous group five leaders, in Moscow. Israel are likely to fall further once Bulgaria have played their two games in hand.

In group eight, Ireland have been replaced in second position by Macedonia, who beat Iceland 1-0 in Skopje. They could slip to fourth if Lithuania win in Iceland tomorrow, although they remain nicely placed for a play-off position if they can beat Lithuania twice.

England's main threats for the automatic runners-up qualifying place — assuming that they do not win group two by finishing ahead of Italy — appear to be from the Yugoslavia and Austria. Yet the statistics are perhaps misleading.

RUNNERS-UP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England (2)	5	4	0	1	8	2	12
Yugoslavia (6)	5	3	1	1	14	6	10
Austria (4)	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
Belgium (7)	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Greece (1)	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Israel (8)	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Germany (9)	4	1	3	0	3	3	5
Macedonia (8)	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Finland (3)	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Records based on results against first, third and fourth-placed teams in respective groups. Figures in brackets indicate qualifying group.

with Yugoslavia's record including an 8-1 success against the Faeroe Islands, who moved up to fourth place in group six with a 2-1 win against Malta in Tofir.

It is inconceivable that the Czech Republic will not eventually overtake the Faeroes in the final group standings, which would substantially reduce Yugoslavia's goal difference and thus dilute their threat to England. Also, of Yugoslavia's remaining matches — against Slovakia and Malta — only the former will count towards the runners-up table.

Austria, who beat Latvia 3-1 in Riga on Sunday, are in a similar position in group four. Only one of their four closing games, against Sweden, is likely to be taken into account when the runners-up conundrum is unravelled. With the Austrians having a comparatively easy run-in, they could even over-

take Scotland, the group leaders. Sweden, who overcame Estonia 3-2 in Tallinn on Sunday, are similarly poised should Scotland stutter. Much will depend on their game in Austria, who beat them 1-0 in October, on September 6.

As usual, little is as it seems in the land of Fifa — only Romania, in group eight, can be reasonably certain of a trip to France. They have a 100 per cent record from six matches.

Group nine is still one of the most closely contested, with Ukraine, Germany and Portugal locked in combat. Portugal beat Albania 2-0 in Porto at the weekend, albeit unconvincingly, while Germany were held 0-0 by Ukraine in Kiev. "We have to respect the good performance of our opponents," Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, conceded.

Vogts's European champions are unbeaten and lie in second place, but have rarely impressed during the qualifying campaign. Although it might have been unthinkable at the start of the series last year, they may yet have to seek a back door into France via the play-offs.

Germany's runners-up record has little merit, either, and the home game against Portugal on September 6 could prove decisive. Few, though, would bet on their absence from the finals. It just couldn't happen, could it?



Luboslav Penev helped Bulgaria to beat Luxembourg 4-0 on Sunday and stay on course for the finals

EUROPEAN WORLD CUP TABLES

GROUP ONE							GROUP SIX								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	5	4	1	0	11	2	13	Spain	8	6	2	0	21	4	20
Greece	5	3	1	1	8	4	10	Yugoslavia	8	6	1	1	23	6	19
Croatia	5	2	3	0	10	6	9	Slovakia	6	4	0	2	14	7	12
Slovenia	5	0	1	4	4	13	1	Finland	7	2	0	5	9	24	6
								Czech Republic	5	5	0	0	7	1	15
								Malta	8	0	0	8	2	31	0
GROUP TWO							GROUP SEVEN								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	5	0	0	11	2	15	Holland	8	5	0	3	23	6	15
England	5	4	0	1	11	2	12	Belgium	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
Poland	5	1	1	3	3	8	4	Turkey	6	0	1	10	16	7	1
Georgia	4	1	0	3	2	5	3	Wales	6	0	1	3	14	12	1
Moldova	5	0	0	5	2	13	0	San Marino	7	0	0	7	0	37	0
GROUP THREE							GROUP EIGHT								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	3	2	0	7	1	11	Romania	6	6	0	0	20	0	18
Finland	5	2	1	2	8	6	7	Macedonia	7	4	1	2	19	10	13
Hungary	5	2	0	3	5	9	7	Ireland	7	4	1	2	15	10	13
Switzerland	4	2	0	2	9	2	12	Lithuania	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Scotland	5	1	0	4	2	13	3	Iceland	5	0	2	3	1	8	2
GROUP FOUR							GROUP NINE								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	5	5	0	0	9	2	15	Ukraine	8	4	2	2	7	6	14
Austria	6	4	1	1	8	4	13	Germany	7	4	1	2	11	4	12
Sweden	6	4	1	1	9	7	13	Portugal	7	2	3	1	7	2	12
Latvia	7	2	1	4	5	11	7	N Ireland	7	1	4	2	5	5	7
Estonia	7	1	1	5	4	11	4	Armenia	7	0	1	6	1	5	1
Belarus	6	1	1	4	2	10	4	Albania	6	0	1	4	3	12	1
GROUP FIVE															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts								
Russia	6	4	2	0	15	2	14								
Israel	7	3	1	3	9	8	13								
Bulgaria	5	4	0	1	14	5	12								
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	5	14	4								
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	1	17	0								

□ The group winners and the best runner-up qualify. The other eight winners will also qualify in pots and the four runners will also qualify for the final.

□ The group winners and the best runners-up qualify. The other eight runners-up will be drawn in pairs and the four winners will also qualify for the finals.

Challenge on course for record entries

By MEL WEBB

WITH the peak time for registrations fast approaching, *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge looks likely to exceed the 1996 entry by a handsome margin. Since its inception in 1993, the entry for the Challenge has grown year after year, and 1997 is no exception.

More than 600 firms have already entered, which represents a five per cent increase on the same time last year. "We are encouraged by the level of entries at this point," John Mitchell, the originator of the competition and the event director, said yesterday. "The strength of the competition is now thoroughly well recognised by the corporate sector, and our ambition to grow each season looks to be well on the cards."

Part of the appeal of the Challenge is the level of organisation. It is an amateur competition that is run to the highest professional stan-



dards. This year's regional finals, the number of which have been increased by two to 14, will be staged throughout October, with the national final again being staged in front of Sky Sports cameras at the La Manga Club Resort in November.

Last year saw the closest finish in the history of the tournament, four teams being involved in a sudden-death play-off before the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association prevailed on the first extra hole.

Figures, page 45
Results, page 49

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8/1	2-1	10/1		BRA.	DRAW	28/1	
18/1	3-0	33/1		DRAW	BRA.	9/2	
18/1	3-1	28/1		DRAW	DRAW	4/1	
33/1	3-2	33/1		DRAW	ENG.	6/1	
11/2	0-0	11/2		ENG.	BRA.	25/1	
5/1	1-1	5/1		ENG.	DRAW	14/1	
18/1	2-2	18/1		ENG.	ENG.	4/1	

Other scores on request. Bets void if 2nd half not started.

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David Powell on a Briton tracking success via computers and the Internet

Techno-athlete now up and running

The Africans have their mountains, the British their technology. The age of the techno-athlete is here and Rob Hooton, a leading British middle-distance runner and physics graduate from Bristol University, is trying to close the gap between himself and world class, using the appliance of science. Hooton is a pacemaker in the field of athletics by computer.

Without making running his priority, Hooton rose last summer to No 6 in the British 800 metres rankings, despite his life having been packed with other interests: competitive rowing, wind-surfing, education, selling vacuum cleaners. Now Hooton has a one-track mind. At 24, he has dropped everything to become a full-time athlete — which, in his case, is quite different from being a full-time runner.

The time that Hooton spends running is but one part of his work. The rest is spent exploring technology to get the best out of his training. He returned home to Edinburgh last week after five months spent 5,000 feet above sea level in Mexico, at a place one will not have heard any other British athlete mention as a training base. Oaxaca was discovered by Hooton not through Britain's network of coaches, but by surfing the Internet.

Having used the Web to find the training venue that he thought would be ideal, Hooton packed away his computer and heart-rate equipment and set off in the British mid-winter on his altitude experiment. He cannot wait to return next winter to correct the one mistake he made, which has probably ruined his chances of making the world championships in Athens this summer.

"I ran out of training shoes," he said, "I could not find a shop where I could buy the shoes I needed because Mexicans are a lot smaller and I could not find size 11." Trainers sent to him by Nike failed to reach him — Hooton suspected foul play by Mexican customs officers — and he injured an Achilles tendon, using worn shoes, before receiving replacements by special delivery.

Needing three weeks off, his training fell behind schedule and the World Student



Hooton discovered his Mexican training base via the World Wide Web and uses modern technology to keep tabs on his performances

Games, a fortnight after Athens, have become his new target. "I will go back to Oaxaca next winter because everything else was perfect," he said. "When I go I will take shoes for six months. It was not my technology that let me down, just reliance on old-fashioned means of transport."

Before leaving home, he picked up work, testing heart-rate monitors for Cardiosport. "Because I have a physics degree, I marketed myself to Cardiosport as an elite athlete testing at altitude and able to analyse data meaningfully," Hooton said — so appropriate to the task that he has developed a new, more comfortable, transmitter strap.

And the Compaq computer? "I could speak to my coaching

advisers in Britain, analyse heart-rate data, plan my training schedules and analyse training performance." He has written his own programme to analyse the information in a spreadsheet. "It gives a blueprint for how I should proceed my training through the year, rather than change from one kind of training to another, which a lot of coaches favour," Hooton said.

"One of the heart-rate monitors is uploadable onto the computer. It records your heart-rate every five seconds of training. You can look at your exact heart-rate profile during that session. If it was on a watch, you would be able to look at it only when you are running, when you do not have the time or energy to look at a watch and see what your

heart-rate is. I can compare a track session to a session on the beach or hills."

In Britain, Hooton was struck by athletes, coaches and officials who lacked a self-help outlook. "I speak to people in the sport who say there is just no money available, other than through the accepted channels," he said. Too many were sitting back waiting for National Lottery money.

Hooton surfed the Internet to find the best place. "I spoke to people in Oaxaca who could give me immediate answers because writing by snail-mail is useless," he said. He even communicated with a Mexican student, also at Bristol University, without ever meeting him.



"I was able to download maps and get a general feel," he said. "I gleaned that Oaxaca was a laid-back place in the mountains, with amazing climate and food, perfect for the athlete. If you do the Websites, you can find out just about anything."

Hooton improved his 800 metres best to 1min 47.7sec last year, despite training while studying for university finals. What could he achieve, he wondered, if he gave training his full attention? "That thought made me decide to put off a graduate career," Hooton said.

Ten years ago he was more interested in rowing, winning medals at the Scottish championships at coxed fours. When running took over, it still had to compete with windsurfing.

Hooton went on an exchange visit to the University of Oregon, more interested in the proximity of Columbia Gorge — "the Mecca for windsurfing in mainland United States" — than its tradition in athletics. Joaquim Cruz, Alberto Salazar and Steve Prefontaine having studied there. On another occasion, he took 14 months out of athletics, working as a vacuum cleaner salesman to finance a windsurfing holiday.

Two years ago, Hooton turned down a Great Britain Under-23 vest and went surfing instead. Now surfing the Internet is more rewarding. "I am definitely hoping to set personal bests this summer," he said. His lap-top expects: <http://www.paradoxcase.com/runner>

Britain face familiar cup frustration

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THINK of the great runners-up of our time and you come up with easy champions of the three categories: Frankie Fredericks (men's individual), Catherine McKiernan (women's individual) and Great Britain (team award). Not even Fredericks and McKiernan, though, are quite as consistent as finishing second as the Great Britain men's European Cup team.

When the squad was announced yesterday for this year's stab at the competition, in Munich on June 21 and 22, the prospect of Britain finishing anywhere but second was made to seem as likely as Jonathan Edwards forgetting to stick a step in between his hop and jump. The British men have been runners-up in five successive European Cups since winning in 1989 and this annual barometer of team strength shows no sign of moving from sunny to hot.

Once again Germany stand in the way. The British men's team's problem has been quite different over the years from that of Fredericks, who has won four Olympic sprint silver medals, losing to a different champion each time, and McKiernan, four times world cross-country runner-up and likewise never beaten by the same winner. Mostly, for Britain, it has been Germany blocking out the sun, winning the last three years.

Yesterday, Malcolm Arnold, Britain's head of coaching, was able to read from a team sheet which, with minor exceptions, is as strong as he could have wished for. So, are we ready to beat the Germans on their home track? Not unless we get lucky was Arnold's message.

"We have got to have everything in place 100 per cent and, if the Germans have everything 100 per cent in place, because of their strength... Arnold did not finish his sentence but a rough guess would be... they will beat us."

Although Britain can expect maximum points from Linford Christie, in the 100 and 200 metres, Roger Black, in the 400 metres, Steve Buckley, in the javelin, Edwards, in the triple jump, and

from the 4 x 400 metres relay team, Germany can once again count on exploiting weaknesses in the long jump, discus and hammer. "The Germans triumph because they are solid," Arnold said. "It is not until we get that consistency across the board that you can think in terms of winning again."

Nevertheless, finishing second in Europe would consolidate Britain's position among the top five nations in the world and it was to a familiar theme that Arnold returned yesterday: the unjust criticism which the athletes had to bear at the Olympic Games last summer. "The athletes came in at the end of a wave of British failure and we were

TEAM

MEN: 100m: L. Christie; 200m: Christie; 400m: R. Black; 800m: M. Sesay; 1500m: J. Maybank; 5000m: A. Williams; 10000m: A. Pearson; 110m hurdles: C. Jackson; 400m hurdles: C. Richardson; 500m hurdles: C. Richardson; 800m hurdles: C. Richardson; 1100m hurdles: C. Richardson; 1500m hurdles: C. Richardson; 2000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 3000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 4000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 5000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 6000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 7000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 8000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 9000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 10000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 11000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 12000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 13000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 14000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 15000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 16000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 17000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 18000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 19000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 20000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 21000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 22000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 23000m hurdles: C. Richardson; 24000m hurdles: C. 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CRICKET

England to tinker while Taylor is left to soldier on

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S cricketers celebrated on Sunday night and the nation celebrated with them. The fervour for success against Australia, embodied by the players and willingly taken up by an avid public, is now expressed in a tangible way: one-nil. Lord's, next week, will be a carnival.

The Australians, beaten out of sight in the first Test at Edgbaston, have ten days to come to terms with an erosion of confidence in vital areas of their team. England's only problem is to prevent too much premature triumphalism and to decide whether to tinker with a winning XI.

Michael Atherton sounded tired but proud yesterday and both emotions were fully justified. "It was a wonderful game for us and I have not known an atmosphere like it in this country," he said. "There is a terrific spirit in the team and we all stayed together in Birmingham on Sunday night. I sense that people around the country, who hadn't given us a chance before the Texaco Trophy, are now gathered behind us. It's a good feeling."

The feeling must be protected and there are indications that the counties, previously ambivalent, are responding to the mood. Darren Gough, England's most precious bowling asset, turned in 45 overs at Edgbaston and his fire must not be extinguished. Gough, knees pumping,

and eyes blazing, bowled the best spells of the match, one of them entirely without luck against Mark Taylor. He also took the most critical wickets. The England management has asked that he should rest between now and Lord's. Yorkshire are preparing to do without him for their championship game at the Oval on Thursday.

Not since 1981 has either country come from behind to win an Ashes series and Australia must somehow borrow the spirit of that famous summer and reverse the roles. Doubtless, they will take solace from the fact that England have not beaten them at Lord's since 1934.

This time, it may be different. England are at their most cohesive in many years. Australia at their most vulnerable. While the shadows over Taylor have been driven back, if not entirely dispersed, the first Test marked out a number of other concerns for a touring team that may soon genuinely qualify for the tritely touted term, "in crisis".

Consider the facts. The only completed tour match that they have won was against a geriatric pick-up team representing the Duke of Norfolk. They have suffered six defeats, four of them by England. Jason Gillespie, on whom so many hopes were pinned, is out for an unknown period with hamstring trouble; Paul

Reiffel arrives today to reinforce the attack. Mark Waugh, their premier batsman, made five and one at Edgbaston and spent the time between innings in hospital.

There is more. Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne, their two bowlers of undisputed world class, are below their best. McGrath took two for 149 in Birmingham, generally bowling the wrong length; Warne took one for 137 and seemed bereft of the control which, disregarding his periodic magic, has set him apart from other wrist spinners.

If England had begun a tour in this fashion, the headlines would already be beseeching the selectors to call everyone home and start again. Instead, they were yesterday the subject of what may be an unprecedented mark of esteem. Down the years, players and selectors have been separated by suspicion, prejudice and downright distrust, yet here was Nasser Hussain, the man of the match at Edgbaston, saying of the victory: "It's especially nice for the new selectors."

Whether they realise it or not, this is a sign of great faith in Messrs Graveney, Gooch and Gatting — a sign, more than anything, that the right people are in charge of their destinies.

Graveney, the chairman of the streamlined panel, admitted to having worn out several carpets while pacing the Edgbaston ground. Always a restless watcher, reluctant to intrude on the space of the players or to join the cocktail set in the committee room, he watched and fretted good-naturedly throughout.

Come the end of the week, he and his colleagues must decide whether Devon Malcolm is worth another chance, whether it is now time for two spin bowlers and whether Adam Hobbie should make his Test debut at Lord's. For a little longer, though, they can join the rest of the country in savouring the moment.



White, of Yorkshire, steers the ball into the leg side on his way to a score of 72

Trainer tames Yorkshire

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HARROGATE Yorkshire won toss; Gloucestershire beat Yorkshire by five wickets

A THIRD defeat by Gloucestershire in consecutive days, this time in the Costcutter Cup semi-final, furrowed Yorkshire's already furrowed brows. Nick Trainor, with a first-class hundred against the Australians to his name already this summer, scored 113 from 126 balls to guide Gloucestershire to their fourth consecutive final tomorrow.

On an excellent, straw-coloured pitch yielding a harvest

of 613 runs, Trainor survived the loss of Shaun Young and Monte Lynch — more eminent fast scorers — to do some rumplundering of his own. Lynch, in his own sharp-eyed style, made 61 from 66 balls during a crucial partnership of 99 with Trainor.

Yorkshire made 305 for 4 off their 55 overs, yet still have not produced an individual century-maker in the 22-year history of this competition. David Byas, Craig White and Darren Lehmann all passed fifty, yet victory was in the realms of cosy notions. After

the loss of Matthew Hoggard, 20, with a groin strain after delivering 14 balls, Yorkshire were a bowler short. Lehmann, bowling emergency slow left-arm, conceded 80 runs from 11 overs, figures that the kindly Tannoy announcer did not divulge to the crowd.

Hoggard, Pudsey-born, awaits his championship debut, but unlike some budding fast bowlers, runs in without undue reliance on his delivery stride. He left the field, head bowed in frustration, though Richard Kettleborough, another young prospect, earned the acclaim of Lehmann, his batting partner and senior run-maker, who stepped aside to applaud him to the pavilion at the close of the Yorkshire innings.

This match, as one-day cricket should be, was mostly about batting feats, and the partnership of 155 between Byas and White was a record for the second wicket in this competition. Today, Durham, the holders, meet Scotland, new entrants and World Cup qualifiers, in the other semi-final.

SCOREBOARD

YORKSHIRE		GLOUCESTERSHIRE	
M D Mason c Davies b Lewis	0	N J Trainor c Bailey b Silverwood	113
D Byas c Quillite b Alleyne	52	R J Curfitt c Bailey b Silverwood	32
C White b Davis	72	S Young b Silverwood	11
R A Kettleborough not out	47	M Lynch c White b Stamp	61
P Porter c Lewis b Shears	28	T H C Hancock c White b Stamp	14
D S Lehmann not out	63	R I Devonon not out	49
Extras (lb 5, w 7)	12	R C J Williams not out	19
Total (4 wickets, 55 overs)	305	Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 2)	10
(R J Bailey, M J Hoggard, G M Hamilton, C E W Silverwood and R D Stamp did not bat)		Total (5 wickets, 52 overs)	308
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-155, 3-167, 4-213		"M W Alleyne, R P Davis, J J Lewis and K P Shears did not bat"	
BOWLING: Lewis 7-0-37-1; Shears 11-0-38-1; Hancock 8-2-48-0; Trainor 9-0-36-0; Davis 11-0-55-1; Alleyne 6-1-33-1; Young 2-0-22-0		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-59, 3-158, 4-202, 5-258	
Umpires: D J Constant and J H Hems		BOWLING: Silverwood 11-0-60-3; Hamilton 9-4-81-0; Hoggard 2-2-10-0; Stamp 11-0-58-1; Lehmann 11-0-30-0; White 7-0-44-1	

Southerners seek comfort of Lord's final

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

WHEN the draw for today's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals was made, it was commonly assumed that the pairings would produce an all-southern final at Lord's on July 12. No doubt the sponsors would prefer that. When, in 1992, Northamptonshire beat Leicestershire in the NatWest Trophy, it was the only one-day domestic final for which both counties failed to sell their allocation of tickets.

Surrey and Kent enjoy home advantage and rising reputations, but the former should remember that they are playing the champion county, and the latter that the Cobblers know perfectly well how to reach Lord's the hard way, even though they have difficulty winning when they get there. They have contested four finals this decade, and that victory five years ago was their only success.

The match at Canterbury brings together the teams that lost the final to Lancashire in each of the previous two years. Kent failed in 1995 despite a century of surpassing brilliance by Aravinda de Silva, and Northamptonshire went down last year, which was Rob Bailey's first as captain. One of cricket's really good men, he accepted defeat most graciously, and deserves to hold up a cup some time in his life.

It would be a very good win if Northamptonshire did it. Kent are an improving side, and Canterbury has probably the most one-eyed crowd in the country. By racing towards the more vocal spectators, and waving his bat around like a medieval swordsman, as he did after the quarter-final victory against Warwickshire, Graham Cowdrey was only behaving as his father did all those years ago, and Frank Woolley before him.

Paul Strang, the wrist-spinning all-rounder from Zimbabwe, is expected to play. He broke the little finger of his left hand last month but, short of actually saying: "Wild horses couldn't keep me out of this one," he has declared his intention to help his new teammates return to Lord's.

Kent are balanced in batting and bowling and have started the season impressively, but

Northamptonshire claimed an outstanding win at Headingley in the last round and will take some knocking over. It should be a very close game.

Despite their lofty reputation, Surrey are struggling. So far this season they have supplied five players to the England side and, in their absence, their form in the championship, which they were strongly fancied to win at the start of the season, has been wretched: no wins from five matches, and two heavy defeats.

Gloucestershire and Essex have already ceded them at the Oval, and Somerset would almost certainly have won there in the first week, if rain had not intervened. Moreover, when they were drawn, rather

TEAMS

KENT (from): S A Marsh (captain), M J Walker, M V Parnell, T R Ward, A P Wells, D P Fulton, G R Cowdrey, M A Eastham, N J Long, P A Stamp, M J McCague, D W Headley, J B O Thompson, B J Phillips, T N Wain, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (from): R Bailey (captain), M B Love, R R Montgomerie, K C Curran, A L Parbury, R J Warren, T C Weston, J N Strain, J S Entwistle, J P Taylor, Mohammed Alam, D Follett.

SURREY (from): A J Hobbie (captain), A D Brown, A J Stewart, B C Hobbie, G P Thorpe, M A Butcher, C C Lewis, R Radcliffe, Nacsem Shah, D O K Salisbury, M P Bicknell, J E Benjamin, Sachin Mishra, LEICESTERSHIRE (from): J A Whisker (captain), V P Wells, D L Maddy, N C Johnson, G I Macmillan, Alistair Hogg, P A Mead, D J Miles, G J Phipps, J M Dore, A D Mulally, A R K Pearson, M T Bimson, T J Mason.

Television: 11am Sky Sports 1, 3pm Sky Sports 3 (over), 6pm BBC2 (highlight).

invitingly, against Yorkshire in this competition last year, albeit at the quarter-final stage, they played poor cricket. One way or another, they have quite a lot of ground to make up.

This year, despite their poor form so far, they expect to be among the important prizes. A batting side that starts with Stewart and Butcher, and goes on through Thorpe and two Hobbies, does not lack enterprise.

Leicestershire go a long way on spirit, and conjured up a fine quarter-final win over Somerset. Today they must set another trap for the unwary, and Surrey will need to be sufficiently well prepared to avoid being dragged into the ditch.

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- The first cellular mobile phones are introduced
- Campodiers are launched and a million stars of home videos are born
- Electronic parking meters go into operation in London

FORD'S 21 YEARS



TOKEN 8

Redoubtables get home help

Sarah Potter on an innovative project that should enhance the women's game

Redoubtables are the oldest women's cricket club in the world. Formed in 1921 as part of a Lambeth church sports section, the Surrey club has finally had its most fervent prayer answered and found a permanent home. This event could have significant implications for the women's game.

A National Lottery handout of £1.6 million was awarded last week and will enable Redoubtables to buy and develop derelict playing fields at which several students graduated to become professional cricketers.

The LCCA is committed to helping nomadic sides find long-term homes. "There are so few grounds in London that people actually own," Wostrak said. "It is very difficult relying on local authority facilities. Women are usually at the back of the queue and green sites are under threat."

Now, with the help of the English Sports Council and local authority regeneration budgets, recreational land has at least a sporting chance of keeping at bay the hard skin grown so readily by the concrete mixers.

"I kept driving past these

keeping the capital's playing fields green and encouraging the sporting participation of disadvantaged groups. A notable success was the formation of the Haringey Cricket College, a training and employment initiative in coaching and sports administration for the unemployed and ethnic minorities, from which several students graduated to become professional cricketers.

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"I kept driving past these

acres in Beddington, thinking how ridiculous it was the site was derelict," Wostrak said. "Redoubtables needed a home, so I thought, 'How do we do this?'"

Ironically, because the owners of the land were not prepared to sell at recreational value, despite a previous planning application refusal, Wostrak's only option was to pad up with a building company.

Linden Homes proved the ideal batting partner. The firm bought the five-acre site and, in return for planning consent for one acre, gave the remaining land to the LCCA, together with a £200,000 endowment to help to offset maintenance costs.

Wostrak then seized the opportunity to provide a whole range of facilities for the local community. Archery, football and hockey will all exist alongside the high-tech cricket school, which has been designed by David Morley Architects, who were recently responsible for the new in-

door school at Lord's. Work to level the ground begins next month and, when the project is complete, Redoubtables will have first right to the pitch. As a former organiser of junior cricket in Surrey, Wostrak is delighted to have secured a centre for the distaff side.

Through the lottery and the Sports Council, it is now possible to say to traditionally chauvinistic groups that if you don't encourage the participation of women or minority groups, you won't get the money, she said. "That's quite right."

Clearly, with 90 per cent of lottery awards under £1 million and the vast majority under £100,000, that is a message being actively endorsed. "I knew it was a good application because of its implications for women," Wostrak added, "but, nonetheless, I'm thrilled. All the players at Redoubtables are very excited."

They will have to pitch their stumps elsewhere for a season or two more but, in the meantime, Wostrak might just have found a way for women cricketers to show that the grass is greener on your home turf.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kankkunen pulls clear

JUHA KANKKUNEN, of Finland, and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, driving Fords, pulled clear in the Acropolis Rally in Greece yesterday.

Kankkunen, who had started the day with a 27-second lead over the Mitsubishi of Richard Burns, of Great Britain, and Tommi Makinen, of Finland, had seen his advantage over Burns cut to 17 seconds at the end of the tenth stage, but slowly rebuilt it to 37 seconds over Sainz.

Burns was unable to match the Fords and, after a spin on the twelfth stage that cost him almost 20 seconds, was overtaken by Sainz on the final stage of the day.

Powerboating: Scott Gillman, of the United States, won the world Formula One powerboat Grand Prix of Europe in St Petersburg on Sunday. Gillman had captured pole position in the

qualifying round and led from start to finish. It was the second race in the series; the first having been won by Jonathon Jones, of Wales.

Basketball: Karl Malone scored 23 points and Utah made nine points in the final two minutes to grab a 78-73 victory over Chicago in Salt Lake City and level the best-of-seven National Basketball Association finals at 2-2.

Equestrianism: Volvo, the Swedish car manufacturer, announced yesterday that it will stop sponsoring the show jumping and dressage World Cups in April 1998.

Motor racing: Mark Blundell, of England, and Mauricio Gugelmin, of Brazil, ran out of fuel on the final lap, allowing Greg Moore, of Canada, to win the Detroit IndyCar Grand Prix.

SAILING

Golding's race lead more than doubled

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CONFIRMATION that the BT Global Challenge is going to be won by Mike Golding on Group 4 came late on Sunday when Toshiba Wave Warrior reached Boston in a time that more than doubles Golding's overall lead.

At the start of the fifth and penultimate leg from Cape Town to Boston, Walker was 22 hours adrift in second place overall.

However, he never established a position from which he could challenge Golding on this, the longest of legs, and arrived at Boston in third place for the stage but more than two days behind Group 4 overall. Early yesterday Toshiba was followed in by Boris Webber's Courtaulds

International in fourth place, a superb achievement for a crew which for most of the race has been rooted to the back of fleet. Webber's team were followed in by Chris Tibbs on Concert in fifth, with Save the Children skippered by Andy Hindley, a couple of hours later.

Hindley has slipped further behind Walker in the battle for second overall.

LATEST POSITIONS (as at 16.00 GMT yesterday): 1. Group 15 finished June 7, 19:18:45; 2. Motorola finished June 8, 05:42:15; 3. Toshiba Wave Warrior finished June 8, 19:30:14; 4. Courtaulds International finished yesterday, 00:01:05; 5. Concert finished yesterday, 07:04:27; 6. Save the Children finished yesterday, 09:02:54; 7. Commercial Union 13 miles to Boston; 8. Global Teamwork 19h; 9. Nacra-Eclipse 20h; 10. Pagan 10; 11. Ocean Rover 12h; 12. Ocean Rover 13h; 13. Ocean Rover 14h; 14. TMC & TMC 14h.

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RUGBY UNION: BATH STAND-OFF AND CLUB COLLEAGUE REDMAN PUT TO THE TEST

Catt in swift call-up for Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PRETORIA

MIKE CATT will make his first appearance for the British Isles tomorrow in his club position of stand-off half, yet by the end of the Lions tour there is every reason to suppose he may challenge as a full back. Catt will play against Gauteng (formerly Transvaal), last season's Currie Cup finalists, along with Nigel Redman, his club colleague and the second replacement to join the tour party from Argentina.

In what has been a fraught week for the Lions — while they have been in Pretoria three players have been lost to them through injury, a fourth

to be fit tomorrow and it is important that they should be if they are to challenge for international places.

The loss of Scott Quinnell with a damaged groin must enhance the prospects of Tim Rodber, the match captain tomorrow, being the No 8 against South Africa, who play their warm-up match against Tonga in Cape Town today.

Indeed, Rodber leads ten of the side that played so well in scoring 64 points against Mpumalanga a week ago and whose skills will now be examined by much better opponents.

However, Catt, himself a replacement for Paul Grayson, displaces Neil Jenkins — who may be wondering where his tour is going — to resume the half-back partnership with Austin Healey that served England well against Wales in Cardiff last March. But if doubts remain over Tim Stimpson's quality as an international full back, the Lions must consider Catt in that role sooner rather than later, given his ability to read the game better than Stimpson.

It is hard to believe that Jenkins can play full back against South Africa on this tour and far easier to see him in his club role of stand-off. "Catt has been playing No 10 and the momentum he has built in his play deserves a run in that position," McGeechan said. Certainly, Catt has been in commanding form for Bath at home and for England in Argentina; but he is unlikely to oust Gregor Townsend for the international series and it would be intriguing were he to play full back against the Emerging Springboks in Wellington a week today.

Redman is revelling in his new role, after replacing the unfortunate Doddie Weir. "This is the icing on the cake of a long career," Redman, 32, said. "When Jack Rowell told me the Lions wanted me, I



Catt puts in some serious training with his new colleagues in the British Isles touring team in South Africa in preparation for his debut tomorrow against Gauteng

said I couldn't believe it. Jack said that he couldn't either. But playing for your country is a big thing and I still haven't lost the passion for playing for England — I would like to carry that over to playing for the Lions."

The Bath lock had a knee operation during the final month of the domestic season. It has cleared up groin and back problems and he is now running far more freely. He

played three matches in Argentina and has hurtled himself into the Lions' training programme with such intensity that he has quickly acquired the angry purple patches on his face resembling grass burns and caused by the friction of heavy scrummaging.

Tomorrow his opponents will include Kobus Wiese, who is expected to have recovered from a calf injury and whose

omission from the South African squad — three of his Gauteng colleagues, Hannes Strydom, James Dalton and Japie Mulder are away on national duty — will add extra motivation.

Gauteng will also have Roberto Grau available to prop now that Grau has returned from Buenos Aires, where he opposed Redman in the first international between Argentina and England.

Rowell left waiting for World Cup contract

The England coach is concerned about his long-term future.

Mark Souster reports

Until a week ago, Jack Rowell was in genial form in Argentina. A tour that had had damage limitation as its main term of reference had comfortably exceeded expectation.

The first international had been won in thrilling circumstances by a makeshift side that had confounded even Rowell. The possibility of a piece of history beckoned. Then Fran Cotton, the British Isles manager, came calling for Mike Catt and Nigel Redman, injuries started to mount and the series was shared rather than won. The atmosphere soured a little and Rowell's mood changed, understandably, to one of exasperation and frustration.

In this professional era, coaches are judged on results and a 2-0 victory against Argentina would have strengthened his hand considerably when negotiations begin — if they ever do — on a new contract that Rowell hopes will take him through to the 1999 World Cup.

His present agreement ends in August and, with an eye on the future, he said yesterday: "I have a great love of the game of rugby and the people in it and this tour has reinforced that. I enjoy the environment, the challenge, everything, and I have never enjoyed it as much as now. To see the team development and the game-plan through in such an exciting way, if that is not motivating, I don't know what is."

Derek Morgan, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union national playing committee, which will decide Rowell's future, said: "It is fair to say Jack would have liked to have had knowledge of any contract extension, or any change, in advance. The nature of this job is that you are always on trial. Results are very important but you have to balance that against what you are trying to achieve. Jack is aware of the process, he is not happy about it, but he understands it."

RUGBY LEAGUE: WIGAN STRIKE BLOW FOR NORTHERN HEMISPHERE IN WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Robinson shows Bulldogs the best of British

Canterbury Bulldogs ... 18
Wigan Warriors ... 22

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN bridged a credibility gap in the world club championship yesterday at the Belmore Oval. For now, at least, the goading of the British game has stopped, and a tournament that was suffocating under the weight of points piled up by the southern hemisphere sides has the oxy-

gen of a British success on Australian soil.

If Chris Anderson, the Canterbury coach, really had not bothered to study their visitors on video beforehand, he did his team a disservice. Wigan were clearly underestimated, possibly because of the ease with which British sides had already been beaten. It was a dangerous assumption, given Wigan's track record against Australian opposition.

They had beaten Manly, Penrith and Brisbane respectively, in the 1987, 1991 and

1994 world club challenge matches, but this triumph was more notable for being achieved when Wigan are not at the height of their powers and when expectations were at their lowest. After an initially rocky start to the domestic season, Wigan have returned stronger, more positive and with a will to succeed that surprised Canterbury, the 1995 Australian champions.

The relief of tournament organisers was matched by that of Wigan, whose 22-0 lead was pared to four points in the

last 14 minutes as fatigue set in. As a former Canterbury player, Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, derived particular pleasure from victory. "The British game needed that," he said. "We need competitions like this. We have to play the best players, who are in Australia, if we are to improve."

As was the case three years ago in Brisbane, a towering defensive display won the game. Only six survivors of the victorious 1994 Wigan team remained, including Mick Cassidy, who put his

body on the line more than anyone. No one in Australia needed reminding of Jason Robinson's finishing. Two tries will increase the clamour by the Australian Rugby League to tie him to the contract that he is due to start next month.

Canterbury made a mess of several early chances and the resolution of Wigan's tacking in keeping them out for more than an hour meant their recovery came too late. As Halligan converted tries by Hetherington, Timu and Ryan, nails on the Wigan bench were bitten to the quick.

Enough had been done, however. At half back, Smith and Wright were an inspired combination in splitting Canterbury open down the middle numerous times. With Silva out of position at full back, Wright saw an opportunity and Robinson latched onto his precise kick. Haughton

stretched Wigan's lead with a trademark surge up the left flank, swatting off four tacklers.

Further tries by Johnson and Robinson in the first 11 minutes of the second period ensured Wigan of their opening win in pool A, which will go a long way to giving them a quarter-final berth. The one cloud was the hamstring injury to Andy Farrell that forced him off after 30 minutes and could have serious consequences for the team, should it not heal quickly.

SCORES: Canterbury: Tries: Hetherington, Timu, Ryan, Goale: Halligan (3). Wigan: Tries: Robinson (2), Haughton, Johnson, Goale: Farrell (2). Pool A: CANTEBURY BULLDOGS: R Silva, H El Masri, M Ryan, J Timu, D Halligan, C Pollock, M Smith, M Goale, S Price, J Hetherington, M Newton, R Hall, S Hetherington, S Gillies, Substitutes: B Ward, T Norton, J Pickering, B Kato. WIGAN WARRIORS: H Paul, J Robinson, G Connolly, K Radenka, A Johnson, N Wright, A Smith, M Goale, M Hall, L Hanson, S Haughton, M Cassidy, A Farrell, Substitutes: G Talcott, S Holgate, O Cardos, P Kato. Referee: G Arscay (Sydney).

Swann facing ban for injury to rival

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ANTHONY SWANN, the Auckland Warriors centre, faces a probable suspension when he appears before the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary panel on Thursday for allegedly putting his knee into the face of Andy Haigh in the opening world club championship match at St Helens last Friday.

Swann was ordered yesterday to go before the committee after Greg McCallum, the RFL director of referees, and the League's executive committee studied a video of the incident, in which Haigh's cheek-bone was damaged, and found that Swann had a case to answer.

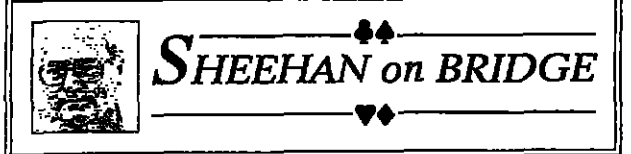
A one-match ban would keep Swann, who scored two tries in the 42-12 defeat of St Helens, out of the pool A match at Bradford on Saturday and a suspension of two matches would mean he would be unavailable for Auckland's remaining games in the first series of pool matches.

Before the rot was stopped by Wigan Warriors in Sydney, Warrington Wolves became the eighth consecutive victims of the Australasian onslaught in a 40-12 defeat by Cronulla Sharks at Wilderspool on Sunday night. Although another one-sided contest, Warrington's spirit persisted. Nigel Vagana and Kelly Sheldford claimed late tries as Cronulla's concentration waned.

Three first-half tries by Russell Richardson were an indication of Cronulla's exceptional pace — the prime cause of the European sides' downfall in the first three days of competition. The crowd, too, was a disappointment. At 3,378, there were only 50 more than watched Warrington's defeat of Barrow in the Challenge Cup on the opening day of the season.

It is already embarrassingly clear that, whereas most of the European sides must feed off scraps to get among the four automatic places in the quarter-finals, a genuine competition is emerging for the four Australasian places. John Lang, the Cronulla coach, said: "The way things are going, we are going to have to win every game if we want to get into the knockout stages. Points for and against are going to be very important."

Although it seems likely that the tournament next year will be an elite competition for the top-four finishers in the respective Super Leagues, Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said it was not a vote of no-confidence in the dozen European teams. "The results do not detract from the fact that we are exposing our players to intense international competition and that they are now aware of the standards they should be aiming for," Lindsay said.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

At match-pointed pairs, it is rare to play Five of a Minor suit. Frequently there will be ten tricks in No-trumps, and so even if you make an overtrick in Five of a Minor you will still have a poor board. So this was a good sequence, from the European Pairs finals, by the British pair, Ian Panto and Malcolm Harris.

♠ J98
♥ A99
♦ A10
♣ A84

West
Panto
1 D
2 NT (1)
3 D (9)
4 C (5)
5 C (7)

East
Harris
3 C (6)
3 H (4)
4 S (5)
4 S (5)
Pass

- (1) Showing 17-18 points.
- (2) Club support, forcing.
- (3) Diamond support.
- (4) Showing strength in hearts. It is the key bid in the auction.
- (5) If West's major suits had been the other way round, he would have bid Three No-Trumps. As it is, he can see there is a weakness in spades.
- (6) Cue-bid: give West AQx in diamonds, and Six Clubs is a possible contract.
- (7) Lacking good playing strength, he wisely signs off.

Many pairs tables were going minus on the East-West cards. Five Clubs with an overtrick scored a near "top".

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FEMORALS

- a. Female ferrets
- b. Trousers
- c. Feminist morals

GAYDIANG

- a. A grass tent
- b. A Burmese chieftain
- c. A sort of junk

FELDSPAR

- a. Prussian military exercise
- b. A tent-pole
- c. A crystalline mineral

GRISON

- a. A Canton of Switzerland
- b. A big weasel
- c. Heraldic grey

Answers on page 50



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Today I continue my homage to Howard Staunton in advance of the unveiling of his long overdue headstone at Kensal Green cemetery, west London, on July 28. In 1843 Staunton took on the leading European master of his day, the Frenchman Saint Amant, in a 21-game match in Paris.

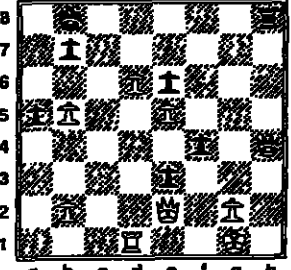
Having started as the slight underdog, Staunton went on to secure an overwhelming victory. Although official world championship matches were only instituted in 1886, many have since regarded Staunton as the unofficial world champion of his time. The following game demonstrates his breadth of strategic vision.

White: Saint Amant
Black: Staunton
Paris 1843

Scillian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 f4 e6
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 c3 d5
5 Bc2 Qb6
6 Bb3 Bc8
7 O-O Nf6
8 d4 Be7
9 Nc2 f5
10 Kf2 f4
11 a3 a5
12 e4 Nf7
13 d4 h6
14 Re1 g6
15 Ne3 d4
16 Nc4 Nd4
17 cxd4 g5

Diagram of final position



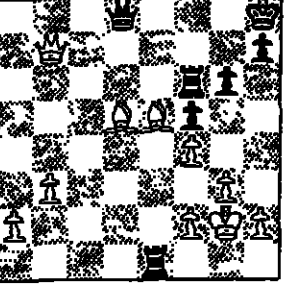
Anyone wishing to attend the unveiling ceremony should contact Barry Martin on 0181-744 2868.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Anic-Santo Roman, Montpellier 1991. White's superb bishops dominate the board and are more than a match for the black rooks. Can you spot White's swift conclusion?



Solution on page 50

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scorers in individual and team competitions in the company golf days listed below, with the company team flights to qualify for a regional final.

Meas Pierson

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
2 MAY	PINEWOOD PRINT	MILLRIDE	144
11 MAY	ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND	CHILSFIELD LAKES	132
13 MAY	DOW CHEMICAL CO LTD	WELCOM HOTEL	134
15 MAY	SINGER & FRIEDLANDER	CLETON TOWN	149
15 MAY	UPM KYMENE LIMITED	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	134
16 MAY	BPC RESPONSE ENVELOPES LTD	TRACY PARK	134
19 MAY	PRIDE OF BRITAIN	ROXBURGH COURSE - SUNLAWS	121
21 MAY	FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY	ROYAL BELFAST	136
21 MAY	WIGEN GROUP LTD	BEACONSFIELD	131
22 MAY	SOCIETE GENERALE	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	146
22 MAY	CHESTER BUILDING SOCIETY	PRESTBURY	141
22 MAY	CLAVERTY HYDE LTD	WREKIN	123
22 MAY	LATHAM TIMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES	WOBURN	117
24 MAY	FRESHLINE FOODS	ONE MANOR	138
27 MAY	BP OIL UK LTD	MURRAYSHALL	135
27 MAY	AUTOMOTIVE EXPORT SUPPLIES LTD	WINDLESHAM	135
28 MAY	LIFT TRUCK DISTRIBUTION	KENILWORTH	129
30 MAY	THE CHILDREN'S WARD APPEAL	CAMMERLEY HEATH	151
30 MAY	TRADE INDEMNITY PLC	MENTHORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	138
30 MAY	BRITISH STEEL PLC (SHOTTON WORKS)	LLANUDDO (MAESODD)	143
1 JUN	COMPUGRAPHICS INTERNATIONAL LTD	TAYMOUTH CASTLE	128
1 JUN	HARVEST AGRICULTURAL	HELLWOOD LAKES	115
2 JUN	CALOR (NI) LTD	SHANDOWN PARK	138
2 JUN	NEVILLE ROSS	ST PIERRE	123
3 JUN	MAN TRUCK & BUS UK LTD	MERE & G & C	150
4 JUN	COPPING JOYCE	GOUTH HEATHS	148
4 JUN	BEACONS BUSINESS INTERIORS	CRADOC	124
5 JUN	CASTLE POOL HOTELS LTD	KINGTON	158
5 JUN	AQUAM GROUP PLC	WETHERBY	149
5 JUN	NOVARTIS	MENTHORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	141
5 JUN	JOHN HOBBS	GARFORTH	135
5 JUN	COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE	MILL GREEN	132

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National Final shown on

sports

TENNIS: RICHARDSON AND LEE BATTLE BACK TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING AT QUEEN'S CLUB

Singular success for British pair

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE light continues to shine on British sport. With the leading eight seeds savouring a day of respite, Andrew Richardson and Martin Lee, a brace of domestic tyros, took maximum advantage of the vacant stage to post stirring victories at the Stella Artois championships yesterday.

Both men had their backs to the wall after disastrous starts, but both closed out their matches to delight an unashamedly partisan crowd at Queen's Club, west London. Lee's was the bigger scalp, his 6-6, 6-4 triumph over Andrei Olhovskiy, of Russia, coming when he seemed destined for a whitewash, but the victory of Richardson, who beat Sargis Sargisian, of Armenia, was more poignant. He now plays Tim Henman in the second round after prevailing 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Initially, Richardson, 23, attempted to embellish his status as a "wild card". His game lacked control as Sargisian fairly rifled into a 5-2 lead. However, Sargisian, ranked 184 places ahead of his opponent, saw evidence of a Richardson revival before taking the first set on a tie-break. The setback served to spur Richardson, whose timing and service rhythm improved noticeably as the match progressed.

"Early on I was trying to get to the net too fast," Richardson said. "I was nervous and started badly. I played better when I changed my game plan." That involved the tall left-hander forsaking the net on his second service, and he quickly reversed the flow. From 2-2 in the second set, a run of four consecutive games

brought him level, and he had opportunities to end the match long before a solitary service break in the deciding set secured the encounter with Henman.

The two are friends who regularly practised together before their careers took divergent paths, but Richardson, ranked No 253 in the world, has no qualms about trying to cut short Henman's activities here this week. "That's what friends are for," he chuckled. "Who could blame him?" Richardson has endured a disappointing sequence since his spirited Davis Cup victory over Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, two months ago. "I put too much pressure on myself after that," he said. "I hadn't won in three weeks so I am pleased to have played like that in an atmosphere I am not used to." Perhaps the court-side presence of David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, helped to raise his game.

If the atmosphere affected Richardson, then Lee, 19, had good reason to feel intimidated as Olhovskiy, Henman's master in the second round here 12 months ago, disoriented the youngster with a fusillade of clean winners. Although Lee sported the blue-and-yellow colours in which Gustavo Kuerten conquered Paris, his sartorial taste seemed hopelessly misplaced as he forfeited the first seven games.

But Lee, who headed the world junior rankings last year, rallied strongly. Olhovskiy grew ever less tolerant of his inability to dominate his opponent. The pity was that Lee's father, Brian, a



Richardson drives a powerful backhand during his victory over Sargisian yesterday

tennis coach and occupied in that capacity yesterday afternoon, was unable to witness his son's inaugural victory on the ATP Tour.

By his own admission Lee, from Sussex, has found life tough since graduating to senior level. He has performed sporadically on the lower-grade satellite circuit but this victory should do wonders for his confidence, a frail commodity in this increasingly

competitive domain. Ranked No 500 in the world, his wild-card entry was presented to him just an hour in advance of the qualifying competition.

By contrast, Mark Petchey, the British No 3, succumbed to the sliken grass-court skills of Leander Paes, of India, who was untroubled in triumphing 6-1, 6-2. There was more to celebrate, though, when Henman and Greg Rusedski came through their respective

first-round assignments in the doubles. Henman, whose world singles ranking dropped five places yesterday, to No 22, linked with Pete Sampras to beat Aleksandar Kitinov and Nuno Marques in straight sets. Rusedski teamed up with Marc-Kevin Goellner to oust Paul Kilderry and Michael Tebbutt, the Australian combination, in straight sets. Who'd be an Australian in London this week?

Cracking the Highway Code

Driving School BBC1, 8.00pm

Here is one of those ideas that seems so obvious you wonder it has not been thought of before. The series is based on the simple but productive formula of following learner drivers through their lessons and tests. You can be sure that in none of the cases will the licence be easily earned. Take Maureen, who has failed the test six times and spent £5,000 on lessons. As she narrowly avoids hitting another vehicle, setting off a furious altercation with her husband in the front passenger seat, her ambition looks as far away as ever. We also meet Joan, on her third test and hoping to pass so that she can take her grandchildren out. The joke is that they may get a licence before she does. For 17-year-old Danny the stimulus is the prospect of driving to see his girlfriend, who inconveniently lives 200 miles away.

Class ITV, 9.00pm

You may not know September Films by name but they are the people behind such series as *Mistresses* and *Hollywood Lovers*. Their latest venture is in the same mode, a compilation of smoothly-edited soundbites delivered by a raft of celebrity faces. The result is candy-floss television, slipping down easily but not offering much by way of substance. Anybody wanting a profound and challenging appraisal of the British class system will have to look elsewhere. We start with the upper class and we go on to see, with Michael Winner (how does he know?), declaring that "the aristocracy has always had an unbridled sex life". The main enjoyment comes from guessing who will come up on the screen next. It is quite a film which includes among its cast not only Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury but that lovable old villain, "Mad" Frankie Fraser.

Trouble With Boys BBC2, 11.15pm

We hear much about children who are out of control and this series features one of them. Paul is 12. He is aggressive and dishonest and screams if he does not get his way. He has been expelled from



Joan gets behind the wheel (BBC1, 8.00pm)

school, arrested for shoplifting and stolen £600 from his own mother. The puzzle is why. It seems that you can rule out social deprivation. His father is in work, his mother is at home full time and his older sister has never been in trouble. Perhaps his parents are a bit too easy on him, but that is difficult to judge. His mother thinks there must be a medical problem. Enter Dr Don Gordon, a psychologist and delinquency expert from University of Ohio. He says he knows what the source of the difficulty is and hopes to be able to sort it out. Tomorrow's programme reveals his success.

Picture House BBC2, 11.45pm

The Canadian Atom Egoyan, who won the grand jury prize at Cannes for *The Sweet Hereafter*, launches a series of evocative short films made by cinema directors and inspired by favourite paintings. Egoyan's film features his baby son, named Arshile after the painter Arshile Gorky with whom Egoyan shares Armenian roots. Gorky's *A Portrait of the Artist* is the peg for a touching exploration of a mother-son relationship. In the other film showing tonight, the Australian director Ann Turner recalls childhood holidays at the seaside when the family would hire a beach hut. But her images, linked to the painting *Bathing Boxes* by her compatriot Jeffrey Smart, also present a more adult and erotic aspect of sun-drenched summers. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Why Do We Care? Radio 2, 9.30pm

There are seven million people in Britain who qualify for the description "carer", in that they look after someone who is ill and they do it for nothing. They occasionally make the news, but a measure of their general invisibility is the fact that, in order to raise their profile, this week has been designated National Carers' Week. Valerie Singleton presents this documentary, which is in some ways most impressive for the fact that carers ask for little (let alone even less) than Skinner, for example, has three children, two of whom have disabilities. Like most carers, all she really wants is some recognition and a break every so often: "I would like to be able to say to a carers' centre, 'I'm so down today I'd just like to sleep for the weekend.'"

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevan Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 8.00 Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Claire Suggett 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Alan Freeman: The Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Scott Joplin: King of Ragtime 9.30 Why Do We Care? See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Adrian Fingham

RADIO 5 LIVE

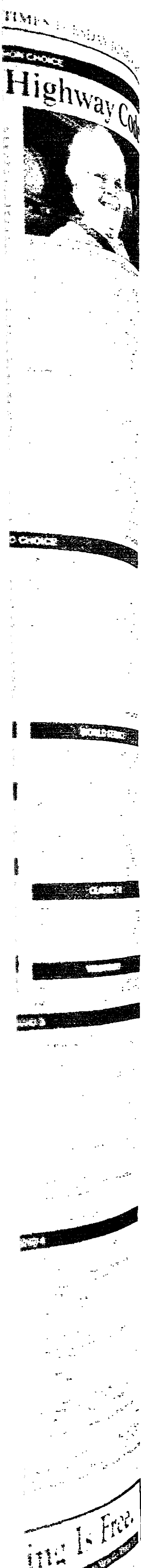
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 The Tuesday Match: Full commentary from Lane where England face world champions Brazil in the four-nation Tournoi de France 9.30 The 21st Century and How to Survive It: Dominik Diamond and Fi Glover look at how technology will affect our lives 10.00 News 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wan 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Christy 12.00 Nicky Campbell 1.00pm Jimmy Boy 4.00am Peter Deley 7.00 Anna Reelbum 10.00 James Whole 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Schumann (Faschingsschwank aus Wien); Rodrigo (Cinco Pezas Inintiles); Puccini (Crisantemi) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Stewart (The Great Stakes of the World); Shostakovich (Op. 13, No 5); Mozart (Piano Sonata in F) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Kirsteen McCue. Includes: Glinka (Kamarskiy); Debussy (Cello Sonata); Gabriel (Miserere); Grieg (Chorale) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Ravel 1.00pm City of London Sinfonia, under Richard Hickox. With Pamela Helen Stephen, soprano; Camille Cheit (Chor); Pastorello; Lou Coucou, Chants d'Auvergne; Ravel (Dux Melodies); Hebrides; Dutilleul (Les Citations); Ravel (Cinq Melodies Populaires Gregues); Milhaud (Le Boeuf sur le Toit) 2.00 Voices. Celebrates Brahms's centenary (1) 2.45 The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under David Atherton. With Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Ian, Michael Thomson, horn; Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville); Britten (Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 3 in a minor, Scottish) 5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10am Shipping Forecast 6.20am Shipping Forecast 6.30am Shipping Forecast 6.40am Shipping Forecast 6.50am Shipping Forecast 7.00am Shipping Forecast 7.10am Shipping Forecast 7.20am Shipping Forecast 7.30am Shipping Forecast 7.40am Shipping Forecast 7.50am Shipping Forecast 8.00am Shipping Forecast 8.10am Shipping Forecast 8.20am Shipping Forecast 8.30am Shipping Forecast 8.40am Shipping Forecast 8.50am Shipping Forecast 9.00am Shipping Forecast 9.10am Shipping Forecast 9.20am Shipping Forecast 9.30am Shipping Forecast 9.40am Shipping Forecast 9.50am Shipping Forecast 10.00am Shipping Forecast 10.10am Shipping Forecast 10.20am Shipping Forecast 10.30am Shipping Forecast 10.40am Shipping Forecast 10.50am Shipping Forecast 11.00am Shipping 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Carping city folk merely bait countrymen

In summer the schedulers' fancy turns to the great outdoors, evidently unconcerned that most of us will be out of doors when programmes about the outdoors are on the television, in winter, when we could use a series about catching fish or living in the country to get urban decay and drug traffickers.

Not that I can use a series about living in the country at any time of the year, but that has not inhibited Channel 4, whose two-part, unimaginatively called *The Good Life*, ended last night. The best that can be said for this series is that it did not last long.

Television embarks on programmes about rural Britain as if it were a new frontier. For six months in the Amazon rainforest. You get the feeling that camera crews have been sent for a course of injections and are under instructions not to clean their teeth without first boiling the water. Sobbing mem-

bers of their close family wave them off from doorsteps, wondering if tribesmen still eat the organs of explorers.

Not in rural Wales they don't. Nor was there much need to worry in any event, for *The Good Life* scarcely encountered a native. The preoccupation was with people from cities who had upped sticks and fled to the country. This is a rural, nay exhausted, subject. It may take guts to give up an urban life to make good cheese or run a country pub, but television documentary is dead on its feet if this is its best shot at enlightening us.

I am heartily fed up (not that you had guessed) with town and country being treated by television as two different planets. Although as I write this I look out upon a field of corn, the man who planted it is as much a businessman as Branson or Hanson and regards said field as a factory. In *The Good Life*, the two men who ran a pub

and the couple who make cheese simply demonstrated the folly of urban-rural divisions by working hard and watching their budgets, much as people do everywhere.

There is, of course, much to be said for the countryside, mainly that its ratio of nature to people is in inverse proportion to that which applies in the city. All the other advantages (and disadvantages) flow from that simple truth. There is a documentary to be made about the extraordinary isolation of the countryside, its tendency to produce a siege mentality and its dislocation from cultural stimuli, but television has so far taken the easy option of following a furniture van from Streatham to Dartmoor.

Rural pursuits are another matter, especially when they are portrayed with the attention to detail that marks *Tales from the Riverbank* (BBC2). Last

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

night's contribution, *Carp: The Fish of Your Dreams*, had sumptuous camera work and delicate sound recording, so that the plup of water and the click of reel ratchets conveyed themselves so convincingly that I kept having to check that my feet were still dry.

True, there is a thin line between angling and standing on a riverbank looking like an idiot. But fishers of carp are immensely

dedicated people, which they need to be in pursuit of one of the canner fish. Carp can grow to 50lb and live for at least 30 years. Catching the same carp over and over has reared the fish where one legendary giant has even acquired a name, Herman.

And the bait! Forget worms. The carp is attracted to smells, but it is no good just pouring Channel No 5 into the water. Chris Yates, a man who will sit under an umbrella all night to catch a carp, uses a mixture of stale bread, curry powder and rotten beer (meaning beer that has gone off, not keg beer). Coriander, fennel, sweetcorn and old strawberries is another recipe; carp men swear by though David Smith would think it a terrible waste.

Of course, high tech has come to angling, in the shape of plastic bait boats controlled by radio. I am not making this up. The little boats sail across the lake and at the point

where fish are said to lurk, the angler presses a button and the bait is tossed over the side of the boat. Yates provided an eloquent comment on this absurdity by sinking a bait boat with a 12-bore shotgun.

There are absurdities beyond the riverbank. What, for example, is the BBC playing at by dropping *Mastermind*? The last series began last night (BBC1), 25 years after the first one. The ratings may have dropped, but the ratings indeed have dropped, but this is still a much watched and dramatic quiz, one of the very few which has managed to combine intelligence and popularity.

By dropping the word "alas" into his introductory statement that this would be the last series, Magnus Magnusson made his own feelings clear. Once under way, this was the familiar *Mastermind* of two rounds specialist and

general knowledge, four contestants and Magnusson's legendary "I've started so I'll finish".

Given the existence of that other show born of a catchphrase, *They Think It's All Over*, perhaps some commercial broadcaster will now launch a quiz called *I've Started So I'll Finish*. Channel 5, are you listening? If it succeeded, it would serve the BBC right.

The specialist subjects last night showed that *Mastermind* may be elderly, but it is far from stuffy. The eventual winner, Clare Oakwell, took questions on anorexia nervosa. Formula One motor racing was among the other subjects. This is inclusive television: we become caught up in it, straining for answers and choosing favourite contestants.

Mastermind is among the few programmes one hears being discussed the next day, but not after this series. Why? I think I will pass on that.

6.00am Business Breakfast (14279)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (96045)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (582316)
9.20 Chequers Challenge (3601300)
9.45 Kilo (2325687)

10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (42107)
11.00 News (7) and weather (2223749)
11.05 Real Traps (7130749)

11.30 The Great Escape (8132)
12.00 News (7) and weather (1856774)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (592478)
12.35 Neighbours (7) (4756294)

1.00 News (7) and weather (59132)
1.30 Regional News (1510565)
1.40 The Weather Show (36015584)

1.45 The Virginian Classic western (6517364)
3.00 International Tennis Sue Barker introduces further coverage of the second day of the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's Club in London (6720)

4.00 Popeye (5181887) 4.10 Plasmio (6323381) 4.15 The New York Bear Show (632652) 4.20 Julia Yogi and Hamet Hyde (553294) 4.30 Round the Twist (6114774) 5.00 Newsround (1) (8836687) 5.10 Act-U (7) (7585590)

5.35 Neighbours (7) (136861)
6.00 News (7) and weather (213)
6.30 Regional News (565)
7.00 Summer Holiday New series presented by Jill Dando. A budget Mediterranean cruise, the Maldives and a 17th-century Strophilite Manor House. Chris Choi investigates confusion over room charges (7) (3852)

7.30 EastEnders Lorraine takes Grant to task over his treatment of Joe (7) (749)
8.00 The Driving School Cameras capture three budding motorists as they embark on the long and rocky road to freedom (7) (2300)

8.30 Only Fools and Horses Granddad becomes convinced an old love-rival has come back to haunt him (7) (8107)
9.00 News (7) and weather (135)
9.30 The Jasper Carrott Trial (7) (73565) WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out (73565)

10.00 Crimewatch UK Appeal to catch a serial rapist and the perpetrators of an armed robbery in Preston (259126)
10.45 The X Files: Duane Barry in the first of a two-part story. Mulder is assigned to negotiate with a dangerous patient who takes a psychologist and three other patients hostage. Concludes tomorrow (308126) WALES: 10.45 The Jasper Carrott Trial (71565) 11.15 The X Files (35294) 12.00 Film 97 (78546) 12.30am Crimewatch UK Update (9617782) 12.40 Film: Saving Grace (279459) 2.30 News (7) and weather (135)

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8.00am Open University: Scville - the Edge of Empire (338126) 6.25 Citizens of the World (7) (342361) 6.50 The Great Exhibition (745592) 7.00 Hear Breakfast News (7) (1006671)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (11) (892455) 7.55 Blue Peter (7) (2116126) 8.20 Junior Jungle (7) (7980131) 8.35 The Record (726642)

9.00 Teaching Today (44565) 9.30 Space Ark (426303) 9.45 Watch (4271294) 10.00 Teletubbies (7) (85497) 10.30 Come Outside (4148213) 10.45 Science Zone (9032749) 11.05 Space Ark (2237942) 11.15 Go for It! (1387687) 11.30 Job Bank (6913213)

12.00 See Hear! (7) (37229) 12.30pm Working Lunch (84671) 1.00 Teaching Today (97774) 1.30 Job Bank (1581017) 1.40 Zig Zag (17953720) 2.00 Junior Jungle (9347234)

2.10 International Tennis Coverage of the second day of the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's Club in London (3853590)

3.00 News (7) and weather (3928126) 3.05 Westminster (4806836) 3.55 News (7) and weather (3192565)

4.00 International Tennis from Queen's Club (3497)
5.00 Westminster The first round of the Conservative leadership battle (7) (8215)
6.00 International Tennis Coverage from Queen's Club (4205313)

7.10 The O Zone with Jayne Middlemiss and Jamie Theakston (520132)
7.30 Home Ground Former IRA mole Martin McGartland returns to Northern Ireland (7) (519)

8.00 Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup Semi-final highlights (2687)
9.00 Murder One Judge Agapian comes to a decision about the suppressed evidence in the Silest Saver serial killer case. Last in series (3010)

10.25 Video News Shorts (291519)
10.30 Newsnight (7) (301213)

11.15 Trouble with Boys (1/3) The problems facing couples whose adolescent sons develop anti-social behaviour (707720)

11.45 Picture House Canadian director Atom Egoyan's film about Anishinaabe painter A. J. Porter and his mother, followed by Ann Turner's visually vibrant celebration of Australian artist Jeffrey Smart (641768)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (76188)
12.30am Learning Zone: O.U. A Language for Movement (13121) 8.00 Statistical Sciences (10855) 1.30 Fight Simulators and Robots (58072) 2.00 Teaching Today (65463) 4.00 Teaching and Learning with IT (79411) 4.30 Film Education (31188) 5.00 Inside Europe (77492) 5.30 Film Education (77817)

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6.00am GMTV (9634403)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (7) (3799519)
9.55 Regional News (7) (4303652)
10.00 The Time, the Place (72922)
10.30 This Morning (7) (6582132)
12.20pm Regional News (7) (1852588)
12.30 News (7) and weather (4855519)

12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (19000107)
12.55 Shortland Street (4750011) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (9085338) 1.50 Afternoon Live (3124836) 2.20 Vanessa (7) (28824798) 2.50 Afternoon Live (2530687)

3.20 News (7) (3008316)
3.30 Potamus Park (7) (3818774) 3.40 Wizardia (7) (8691855) 3.50 Old Bear Stories (8697039) 4.00 Scooby Doo (7) (7862161) 4.10 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (7) (1480279) 4.20 Waynehead (7) (9155590)

4.45 Totally California Teenage lifestyles in and around Los Angeles (7) (603123)
5.10 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (8650584)

5.40 News (7) and weather (210309)
5.57 Pollen Count (77132)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (856756)
6.25 HTV Weather (826395)
6.30 The West Tonight (7) (861)

7.00 Emmerdale Viv and Sarah quarrel in the post office (7) (8720)
7.30 Take 3 Reports from around the region on topical issues (395)
8.00 The Bill A professional difference of opinion arises between Skase and Croft (7) (4768)

8.30 The Cook Report Roger Cook uncovers malpractice (7) (8403)

9.00 The Bill A professional difference of opinion arises between Skase and Croft (7) (4768)

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9.570 The Bill A professional difference of opinion arises between Skase and Croft (7) (4768)

10.00 The Bill A professional difference of opinion arises between Skase and Croft (7) (4768)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4750010)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8650584)
6.25-7.00 Central News (411951)
7.30-8.00 24 Hours (395)
11.40 Highlander (719478)
12.40am Movie Club (8396166)

1.10 Film: Something to Hide (538140)
2.55 In Focus (3748871)
3.40 The Big Match Replay (8729701)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (8477427)
5.20 Asian Eye (4540531)

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As HTV West except:
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GOLF 44

Can Europe counter the latest threat from American tour?

SPORT

TUESDAY JUNE 10 1997

TENNIS 50

Britons enjoy day in the spotlight at Queen's Club



Hoddle confident his team can exploit Brazil's defensive frailty at Parc des Princes

England ready to dethrone sun kings

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

THE England squad trained at a hill-top camp overlooking the Palace of Versailles yesterday: tonight they will meet the sun kings. After the glorious successes of the past fortnight, both in Poland and here in the Tournoi de France, only Brazil, the world champions, the masters of football, now stand between Glenn Hoddle's team and a summer of unfettered optimism.

Hoddle's players, brimming with confidence, all know how important this match against Brazil is. Although they have already won this tournament, although their final game should be the most meaningless of friendlies, it has come at a pivotal time in the England revival that has taken hold since the defeat by Italy at Wembley in February.

Notwithstanding the victories over Italy and France in the past six days, Brazil and their embarrassment of exotic playing riches will provide England with the ultimate gauge of their progress in the Parc des Princes tonight, the best indication so far of whether there is real hope that they cannot only qualify for the World Cup next year but move towards the later stages, too.

From Roberto Carlos, with his outrageous free kicks, to Ronaldo, with his frightening pace, to Denilson, the new dribbling sensation, who kept Juninho out of this squad, there is copious talent in their ranks. Hoddle said yesterday they could pick 11 separate Brazil teams and any one of them would challenge for the World Cup.

Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, who has been one of England's most impressive players in this tournament, put it best. "People ask me whether I am looking forward to finding out how good Ronaldo is," he said. "But I don't look at it like that. I want to find out how good I am."

The name of Ronaldo, of course, was on everyone's lips here yesterday. The young, prodigiously gifted centre forward has become a byword not only for rapier-like attack-



Shearer hopes to maintain his excellent strike-rate

ing excellence but also for the game's financial excess. Within the month, it is said, he will have moved from Barcelona to Internazionale in a package that will cost the Italian club almost £50 million and make him, rather than Alan Shearer, the most expensive player in the world.

The young Brazilian is not as complete a centre forward as Shearer, not as good in the air, not as strong in the

challenge. But he does have explosive pace, ball control that almost defies belief and an ability and willingness to run at defences from the halfway line.

This season, he smashed a decades old Barcelona record with 34 goals. He has scored 14 times for Brazil in only 20 appearances, compared with Shearer's tally of 16 goals in 34 games for England. Eleven of the Newcastle United striker's

total, though, have come in his past 11 games. "Ronaldo is strong and pacy, with a great first touch," Shearer said yesterday, "and he can beat three or four players from the halfway line. I spent a little bit of time with him at an awards ceremony recently and he came across as very level-headed and down to earth."

"Because we are both high-profile players, I am sure comparisons will be made between us. Some people might think he is better than me, some might think I am better than him. That is up to them. As far as his transfer goes, I don't want it to happen because I love the tag of being the most expensive player in the world. It is a great honour and I don't want to lose it."

Hoddle would not be drawn into a discussion on the relative merits of the two players but he did exude a confidence in his team's prospects rare in an England coach about to send his team out against Brazil. He was disparaging about his opponents' defensive abilities and bullishly optimistic about England's chances of exploiting their failings.

"It will be interesting to see if we can defend against the best attacking force in the world," Hoddle said. "But, equally, we have to target their Achilles' heel, which is their defence. Their natural instinct is not defending."

"That is partly because they have the ball for 75 per cent of the game and they keep it so well. They are only happy when they have got the ball and even their defenders want to caress it. It is the 'beautiful game' thing, although they have changed a bit with the addition of players like Dunga and Mauro Silva, harder players."

"Our defence has kept a few clean-sheets but this is the ultimate test. The Italians defended superbly for half an hour on Sunday but Brazil still had enough elusiveness to open them up in the end. We have got a good strong unit but you are never safe against them. They come at you from every angle."

"We have got an inner belief now that we can go out there and take anybody on. These teams we have been playing in France are teams that are going to be looking at making the World Cup semi-finals next summer. That is their calibre, but Brazil will be the best benchmark of all for us."



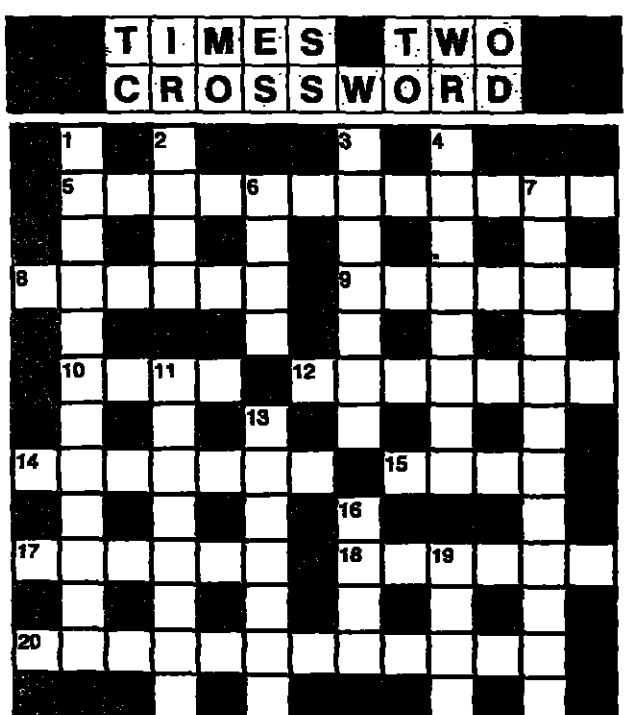
The England defence will have to cope with Ronaldo's exceptional pace and control in Paris tonight

PROBABLE TEAMS

ENGLAND (3-5-2): D. Seaman (Arsenal); S. Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Southgate (Aston Villa), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest); G. Neville (Manchester United), P. Gascoigne (Rangers), P. Ince (Internazionale), R. Lee (Newcastle United), P. Neville (Manchester United); A. Shearer (Newcastle United).
BRAZIL (3-4-1-2): Taffarel (Atletico

Mineiro); C. Silva (Corinthians), Cafu (Palmeiras), Aldair (Roma); Flavio (Desportos da Consola), Dunga (Jubilo Iwada), Denilson (Sao Paulo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Leonardo (Paris Saint-Germain); Romario (Flamengo); Ronaldo (Barcelona).
Referee: J. Rendon (Colombia).
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1 (7.30pm).
RADIO: Radio 5 Live (7.30pm).

P W D L F A Pts
England 2 0 0 3 0 6
Brazil 2 0 0 4 4 6
France 2 0 1 1 2 1
Italy 2 0 1 1 1 1
RESULTS: France 1 Brazil 1, England 2 Italy 0, France 0 England 1, Brazil 3 Italy 3
FIXTURES: Today: England v Brazil (Paris). Tomorrow: France v Italy (Paris)



No 1116

- ACROSS
5 Anne Brontë wrote of its tenant (8,4)
8 Windcheater (6)
9 Stroke lovingly (6)
10 Course of action: temp. stich (4)
12 Readable (7)
14 Sort of (wind-played) harp (7)
15 Like this (4)
17 Logical faculty (6)
18 Remembrance herb (6)
20 Helpful (12)
- DOWN
1 Maligner (5,3,4)
2 Indistinct image (4)
3 Make looser (7)
4 Surly, rude (8)
6 Counterfeit (4)
7 Eternation (12)
11 Enormous (8)
13 Powerful businessman (7)
16 Boast: a card game (4)
19 Lump of earth (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1115

- ACROSS: 1 Business 5 Ahab 9 Red sky at night
10 Wend 11 Get away 13 Always 15 Papyrus 18 Drizzle
20 Beck 23 Home Sweet Home 24 Pony 25 Imprison
DOWN: 1 Bark 2 Sidle 3 Nakedly 4 Shaggy
6 Highway 7 Bit by bit 8 Knit 12 Hardship 14 Whimam
16 Arbitr 17 Te Deum 19 Zest 21 Cross 22 Keen

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United set up foreign aid package

By DAVID MADDOCK

MARTIN EDWARDS, the Manchester United chairman, expects to hold a press conference this afternoon to unveil one, possibly two, new signings.

Markus Babel, the Germany defender, has agreed to join the club and Edwards is confident that Brian Laudrup will swiftly follow his example.

Maurice Watkins, the United legal director, flew to Munich yesterday to conduct negotiations with Babel, 24, a central defender who has already won close to 20 caps for his country.

The player indicated last night that he is ready to accept a five-year deal and Bayern Munich, his club, have agreed a fee of £5 million.

The pursuit of Laudrup is proving slightly less straightforward. He, too, has held talks with United officials and suggested over the weekend that he favours the Manchester club over Arsenal and Ajax, both of whom have offered £5 million for the player to Rangers.

World Cup latest 46

But negotiations are proceeding slowly. Laudrup has been on international duty with Denmark and will travel to Jersey today to speak for the first time to David Murray, his chairman at Rangers, about his proposed destination after turning down an improved contract from the Glasgow club.

Edwards would only say yesterday that he has spoken to both players and, if they join, then it is likely to happen quickly. He could not confirm, however, that Laudrup will be signed in time to allow a double announcement this afternoon.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, left on his summer holiday only after convincing himself that both transfers would be completed. Babel, he said, will be an asset in Europe, where his man-marking skills could be utilised. "He has those German qualities, strong, organised, committed and disciplined," Ferguson said.

The manager also remained confident that Laudrup will sign, despite suggestions in the Danish media linking the 28-year-old with Ajax.

Graeme Souness, the former Southampton manager, has agreed to join Torino as their new coach. The Serie B side, who were relegated this season, are looking to Souness to begin a rebuilding programme that is intended to establish them back in the top flight in Italy.

Arsenal officials yesterday dismissed suggestions that they have lost out in the race for Marc Overmars, the Ajax winger. It was reported that the London club has lost an option on the player's services, but a spokesman said yesterday that they were still involved in talks with the Holland international.

Sergio Porrini, the Juventus defender, is to join Rangers on a four-year contract, sources at the Italian league champions said yesterday.

Quinnell forced out of Lions tour

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PRETORIA

SCOTT QUINNELL, the Wales No 8, yesterday joined the melancholy procession bound for home from the British Isles tour of South Africa. Quinnell becomes the third player forced by injury to leave the Lions during their stay here, after Paul Grayson and Doddie Weir. His replacement—who could be his Richmond colleague, Ben Clarke—is expected to be confirmed today.

After a forceful game against an Eastern Province invitation XV, Quinnell had to work harder, as did all his colleagues, during the defeat by Northern Transvaal on Saturday, but he remained in contention for an international place. However, a groin

injury resurfaced at the weekend and an orthopaedic surgeon confirmed that a lengthy period of recovery would be required.

Quinnell, 24, is suffering from inflammation of the muscle attachment to the groin. He was troubled by the same injury early this year, but it appeared to have cleared up. His departure will deprive the Lions of a forward of pace and power, although Fran Cotton, the manager, was philosophical. "The average number of replacements on a Lions tour is six," Cotton said, "and it's a fact of life. We have a very intensive programme and injuries must be expected."

Cotton declined to comment on the fines imposed last night by the Mpumalanga Rugby Union on the two players whose indiscipline

play so incensed the Lions in Witbank last Wednesday. Marius Bosman, the lock whose kick caused such severe ligament damage that it ended Weir's tour, was fined nearly £1,500 by the Mpumalanga disciplinary committee and Elandre van



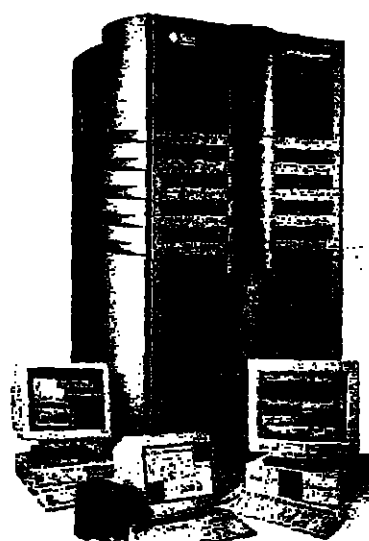
Weir: legal action

der Berg, his second-row colleague, was fined £750, of which around £400 is suspended until December dependent upon his subsequent behaviour.

Both were found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, thus contravening their playing contracts. However, Hennie Erasmus, the Mpumalanga RU president, claimed that no suspensions could be imposed, and they will be free to continue playing.

Weir confirmed last night that he is to consider taking legal action against Bosman. "Some idiot thinks he has to make his mark and he can't do it legally, so the clown does it the only way he knows," Weir said. "Men like him shouldn't be allowed to play."

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